花とゆめCOMICS

八雲立つ

樹なつみ 2

花とゆめ COMICS

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八雲立つ〔2〕

樹なつみ

白泉社

花とゆめCOMICS

▶収録作品◀

古代の因縁により神剣を通して結ばれた運命の二人を描くNo.1ヒロイック・ホラー「八雲立つ」第2巻。EXTRA・京都編を同時収録。

■LaLa掲載■

白泉社

●樹なつみの本

—花とゆめコミックス—

バッション・パレード　全6巻
エキセントリック・シティ
花咲ける青少年　全12巻
八雲立つ　全19巻
デーモン聖典　①〜⑤

—ジェッツコミックス—

OZ—オズ—　全4巻
獣王星　全5巻

—花とゆめコミックス スペシャル—

OZ完全収録版　①〜④

—イラスト集・資料—

画集・Passionate
樹なつみ画集 八雲立つ

—白泉社文庫—

朱鷺色三角　全3巻
バッション・パレード　全3巻
マルチェロ物語　全4巻
花咲ける青少年　全6巻

作品かいせつ

親類の営む由緒ある京都の料亭を訪れた**健生**は、自分に向けられる激しい怨念を感じる。その頃、奇しくも剣道大会出場の為、**闇己**も京都の土を踏んでいた。再会した二人を巻き込んで勃発する新たな事件とは!? 京都、東京を舞台にくり広げられる**ヒロイック・ホラー**第2弾!!

Yakumo Tatsu

Scanned & Translated
Yuriko
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& Drack
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Storm in Heaven
www.storminheaven.net

Hana to Yume Comics

Yakumo Tatsu

Volume 2

Itsuki Natsumi

THIS BOOK IS A WORK OF FICTION. ANY RESEMBLANCE TO ACTUAL EVENTS, LOCALES, OR PERSONS, LIVING OR DEAD, IS ENTIRELY COINCIDENTAL

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FESTIVAL OF THE YOUNG PRINCE (1) 104

FESTIVAL OF THE YOUNG PRINCE (2) 155

WHEN GENERAL TOKUGAWA BESIEGED FUSHIMI MOMOYAMA CASTLE JUST BEFORE THE DECISIVE BATTLE OF SEKIGAHARA IN 1600, ITS GARRISON, DOWN TO THEIR LEADER TORII HIKOEMON MOTOTADA, FELT IMPELLED TO END THEIR LIVES BY COMMITTING RITUAL SUICIDE

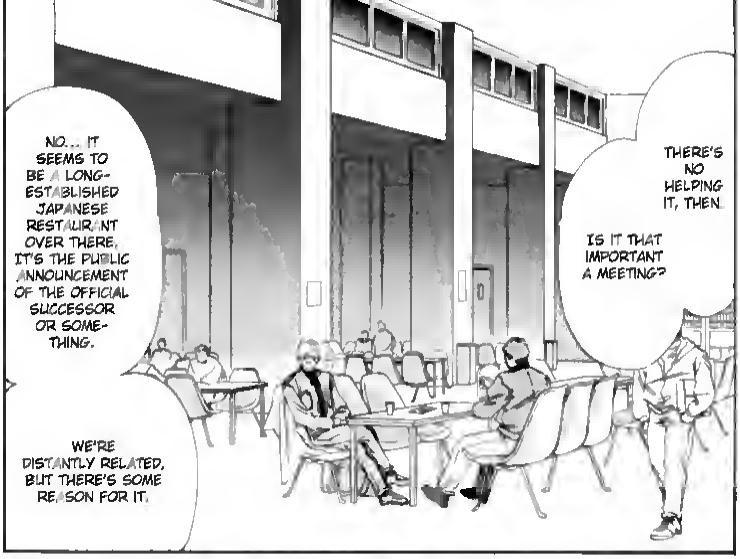
THE CEILING OF THE TEMPLE NISHIGAMOSHODEN IN PRESENT DAY KYOTO WAS BUILT WITH PARTS OF THE CORRIDORS GATHERED FROM THAT TIME AND KEPT FOR POSTERITY. IT'S CALLED THE "BLOODY CEILING"

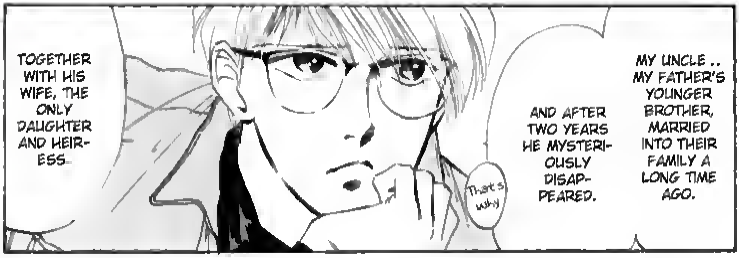
Crossroads of the Ghost's Wail

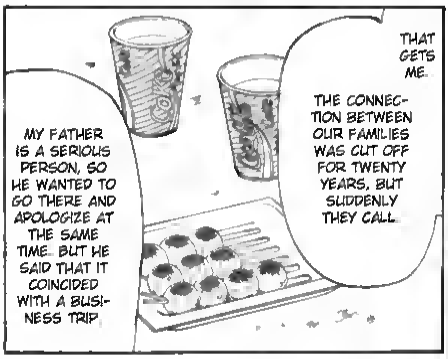
THE VIVID HAND- AND FOOTPRINTS OF THE WARRIORS, AMONGST NUMEROUS BLOODSTAINS, STILL TELL US ABOUT THE HORROR OF THAT DAY, EVEN AFTER 400 YEARS.

Crossroads of the
Ghost's Wail

SENPAI, I'M VERY SORRY!
MY FATHER SUDDENLY ASKED ME TO ATTEND A FAMILY MEETING IN HIS PLACE...
WHAT?!
YOU CAN'T GO TO WORK?!
BECAUSE YOU'RE GOING TO KYOTO?!


NO... IT SEEMS TO BE A LONG-ESTABLISHED JAPANESE RESTAURANT OVER THERE. IT'S THE PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE OFFICIAL SUCCESSOR OR SOMETHING.
WE'RE DISTANTLY RELATED, BUT THERE'S SOME REASON FOR IT.
THERE'S NO HELPING IT, THEN.
IS IT THAT IMPORTANT A MEETING?


TOGETHER WITH HIS WIFE, THE ONLY DAUGHTER AND HEIRESS.
That's why!
AND AFTER TWO YEARS HE MYSTERIOUSLY DISAPPEARED.
MY UNCLE .. MY FATHER'S YOUNGER BROTHER, MARRIED INTO THEIR FAMILY A LONG TIME AGO.

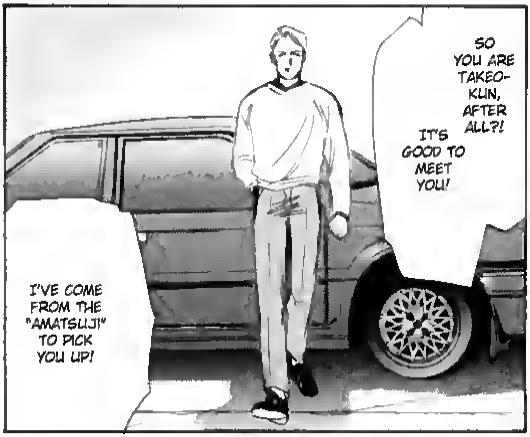

MY FATHER IS A SERIOUS PERSON, SO HE WANTED TO GO THERE AND APOLOGIZE AT THE SAME TIME. BUT HE SAID THAT IT COINCIDED WITH A BUSINESS TRIP.
THE CONNECTION BETWEEN OUR FAMILIES WAS CUT OFF FOR TWENTY YEARS, BUT SUDDENLY THEY CALL.
THAT GETS ME.

This is Ewa-Senpai, who's very popular among some of you.

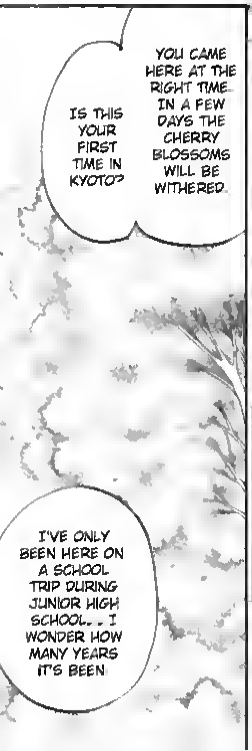
THAT'S RIGHT!!
WHILE YOU'RE AT IT, YOU SHOULD GO TO IZUMO, TOO!!
WHAT WAS HIS NAME AGAIN? I KNOW! TO KURAKI-KUN'S PLACE.
NOW, NOW.
IT'S NOT ALL THAT BAD IT'S A FIRST-CLASS RESTAURANT IN KYOTO. WHO KNOWS IF YOU'LL GET A CHANCE LIKE THIS AGAIN!
AAH! I'VE HAD NO LUCK EVER SINCE SPRING

I THOUGHT I COULD CONTACT HIM AFTER THE FORTY-NINTH DAY AFTER HIS FATHER'S DEATH.
SOME-HOW I COULDN'T BRING MYSELF TO CALL HIM.
BUT YOU SAID YOU WERE WOR-RIED ABOUT HIM AND THAT HE HASN'T CONTACTED YOU EVER SINCE.
VERY FAR!
SENPAI— PLEASE BRUSH UP YOUR GEOGRA-PHY A LITTLE.
IZUMO IS FAR AWAY FROM KYOTO
HE SAID THAT HE'D MOVE TO TOKYO, DIDN'T HE?

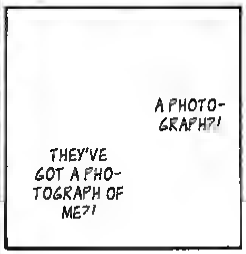
INSTEAD, SHOULD I TRY CALLING HIM FROM KYOTO...
AND ACTUALLY GO TO IZUMO?
AND IT WASN'T A NATURAL DEATH EITHER...
THAT'S RIGHT. I USED THE FORTY-NINTH DAY AS AN EXCUSE.
KYOTO TOWER HOTEL
AS SOON AS I'VE TAKEN CARE OF THAT UNPLEASANT TASK...!!
YES! I'LL DO THAT
Amatsuji
Kyoto Sakyo district
(075) 7
I FEEL RELIEVED, BUT...
SAKYO DISTRICT... THE BUS TO THE SAKYO DISTRICT... HUH?
S... SOMEHOW I DON'T QUITE GET THE TIMETABLES IN KYOTO
NA-NACHI... TAKEO-KUN?!

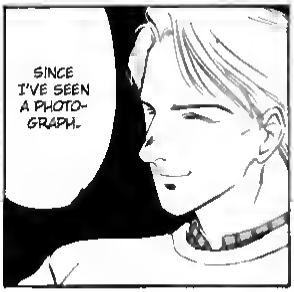

I'VE COME FROM THE "AMATSUJI" TO PICK YOU UP!
SO YOU ARE TAKEO-KUN, AFTER ALL?! IT'S GOOD TO MEET YOU!

HUH?!


IS THIS YOUR FIRST TIME IN KYOTO?
YOU CAME HERE AT THE RIGHT TIME. IN A FEW DAYS THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS WILL BE WITHERED.
I'VE ONLY BEEN HERE ON A SCHOOL TRIP DURING JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL. I WONDER HOW MANY YEARS IT'S BEEN.

I'M SORRY FOR ALL THE TROUBLE. BUT EVEN THOUGH WE'RE MEETING FOR THE FIRST TIME, I RECOGNIZED YOU RIGHT AWAY.
I'M GOTO NORIHIKO, THE NEXT HEAD OF THE "AMATSUJI".
NICE TO MEET YOU.


THEY'VE GOT A PHOTOGRAPH OF ME?!
A PHOTOGRAPH?!


SINCE I'VE SEEN A PHOTOGRAPH.

WHAT?!
HUH?!
YOU'RE 21, RIGHT?
YES, SINCE LAST MONTH.
YOUR UNCLE'S PHOTO-GRAPH.
WAS KUNIO-SAN'S ....
TRUTH IS, THE PHOTO-GRAPH I'VE SEEN..
YOU REALLY DO.. LOOK LIKE HIM
YOU LOOK JUST LIKE HIM.
BUT AMONG MY RELATIVES, IT'S GENER-ALLY HELD THAT IT WAS PROBABLY THE OTHER WAY AROUND.
THERE'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
AMATSUJI'S GRAND-AUNT SAYS THAT IT LOOKS LIKE KUNIO-SAN TOOK SAYOKO-SAN WITH HIM.
MY FATHER NEVER MEN-TIONED ANY-THING....
WHAT, FOR REAL?!
OH, MAN.
THIS MAKES THINGS EVEN WORSE.
SINCE, NO MATTER WHAT, IT SEEMS THAT AMATSUJI'S SAYOKO-SAN WAS A FIERY, HYSTERICAL AND ALTOGETHER DIFFICULT WOMAN.

FREE TALK 〈1〉

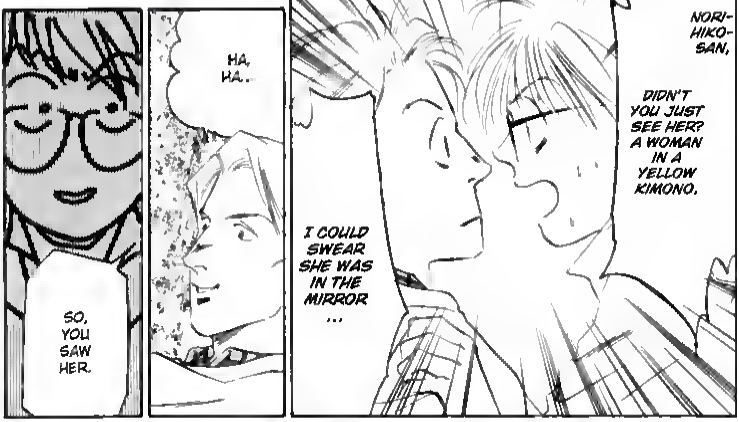
皆さま、長らくお待たせしましたあ。「八雲立つ」第2巻なんと第1巻発売から2年と9か月かかってやっと発売の運びとなりました。

でも作中では1か月ほどしかたっていません。おそらくこれからも時間はさっぱりたたないでしょう。

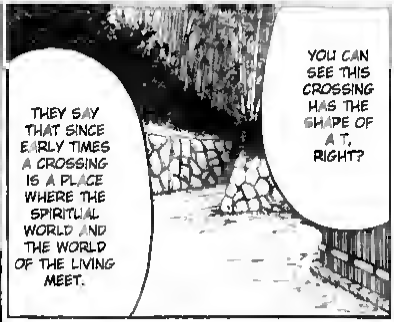
というより「子連れ狼」化していくかも。季節は変われど大五郎はずっと3つであれだ。そのあたりつっこまないで下さいね。お願い。ああ、例としては、「サザエさん」の方が良かったかしら。

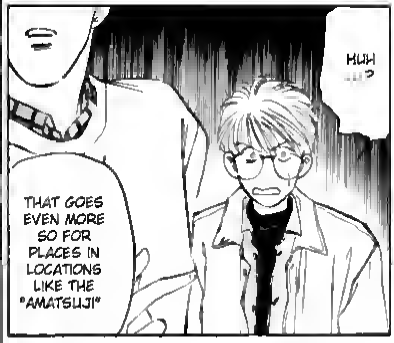
すみません。つい自分の好みで話を進めちゃって。

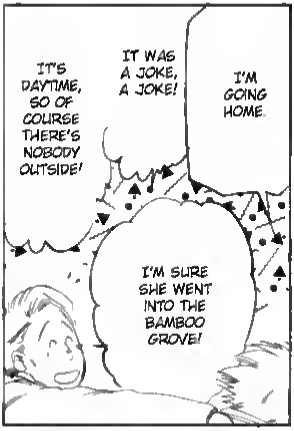
WOAH... THIS IS KYOTO.
I'M SO LUCKY
OH! AND THERE'S ALREADY A KYOTO BEAUTY IN A KIMONO, TOO!
IS SOMETHING WRONG, TAKEO-KUN?
NO, THERE WAS A GORGEOUS LADY BACK THERE ..
SSH
WE'VE ARRIVED.
TAKEO-KU..


NORI-HIKO-SAN,
DIDN'T YOU JUST SEE HER? A WOMAN IN A YELLOW KIMONO.
I COULD SWEAR SHE WAS IN THE MIRROR ...
HA, HA.
SO, YOU SAW HER.

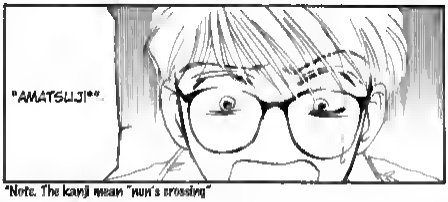
IT'S RIGHT AT THE TOP OF THE T-SHAPED FORK IN THE STREET, ISN'T IT?
THAT SEEMS TO BE WORST.
YOU ALSO KNOW THAT THIS WAS A CONVENT UNTIL 200 YEARS AGO, RIGHT?


YOU CAN SEE THIS CROSSING HAS THE SHAPE OF A T, RIGHT?
THEY SAY THAT SINCE EARLY TIMES A CROSSING IS A PLACE WHERE THE SPIRITUAL WORLD AND THE WORLD OF THE LIVING MEET.


HUH ...?
THAT GOES EVEN MORE SO FOR PLACES IN LOCATIONS LIKE THE "AMATSUJI"



A HUNDRED AND FIFTY YEARS AGO AN ANCESTOR OF THE "AMATSUJI" BOUGHT THE DILAPIDATED TEMPLE...
AND OPENED A LITTLE RESTAURANT.
THAT'S WHY IT'S CALLED ...



*Note. The kanji mean "nun's crossing"

THIS IS ZENZO-SAN, OUR HEAD CLERK.
HE'S AN OLD TIMER WHO'S WORKED FOR US FOR FORTY YEARS NOW.
NORI-HIKO-SAN, WEL-COME BACK.
AND YOU WOULD BE...
IT'S SUR-PRIS-ING, ISN'T IT?
THIS IS NANAGHI TAKEO-KUN, KUNIO-SAN'S NEPHEW.
NICE TO MEET YOU.
KU... KUNIO-SAN'S.. YOU LOOK A LOT LIKE HIM.
YOU SUR-PRISED ME
WHERE'S THE LAND-LADY?
SHE HASN'T YET COME BACK FROM HER COURTESY VISITS.
SO WE'VE GOT SOME FREE TIME, AFTER ALL.
SAY, TAKEO-KUN, WOULD YOU MIND KEEP-ING ME COM-PANY FOR A WHILE?
YES?
THERE'S A TEMPLE RIGHT OVER THERE, AND THEY'RE HOLDING A FESTIVAL TODAY.
OH, SOUNDS NICE.
IT'S PRETTY POMP-OUS.
ALL RIGHT, LET'S GO!

HE'S STILL WATCHING ME
DO I LOOK LIKE HIM THAT MUCH?
FATHER, YOU IDIOT—
THAT'S BECAUSE THEY'RE ANGRY
YOU SEE,
IT'S A RATHER ANCIENT TEMPLE
AN OLD LEGEND SAYS THAT GENERAL YOSHITSUNE HAS HELD BUDO* TOURNAMENTS THERE, TOO
A-AMAZING
THAT'S JUST LIKE KYOTO!
Yeah, they'll give me hell
*Note: A style of Japanese martial arts
AND A FESTIVAL FENCING TOURNAMENT TAKES PLACE THERE EVERY YEAR
WOAH
WHAT'S IT LIKE THIS YEAR, KANROKUJI-SAN?
OH MY! GENTLEMEN FROM THE "AMATSUJI" ..
PLEASE, COME ON IN
IT'S ALREADY STARTED

blah
HE'S STILL A SECOND YEAR, ISN'T HE?
AMAZ-ING
HE'S GOING TO WIN AGAIN.
blah
BUT HE COULDN'T BE THIS STRONG, THEN

WAAH
IT SHOULD BE ABOUT TIME FOR THE FINAL MATCH.
FOUR HIGH-RANKING HIGH SCHOOLS FROM THE CHUGOKU DISTRICT ARE PRES-ENT THIS YEAR.
OH, THEY'RE IN HIGH SPIRITS!

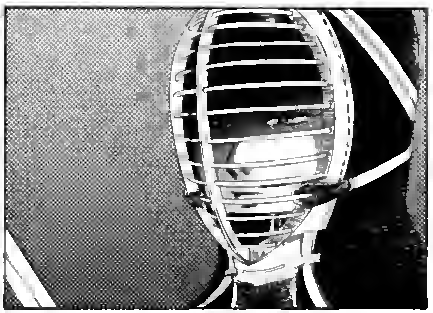
OHO—
OH, IT SEEMS LIKE ONE OF THE FIGHTERS COMPETING IS REALLY CAUSING A STIR.

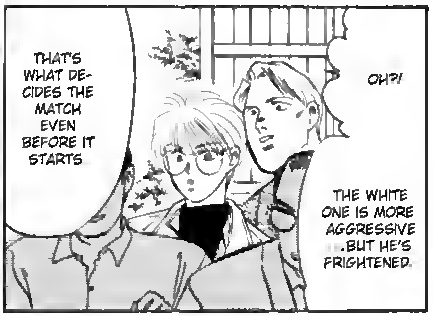
HUH...?

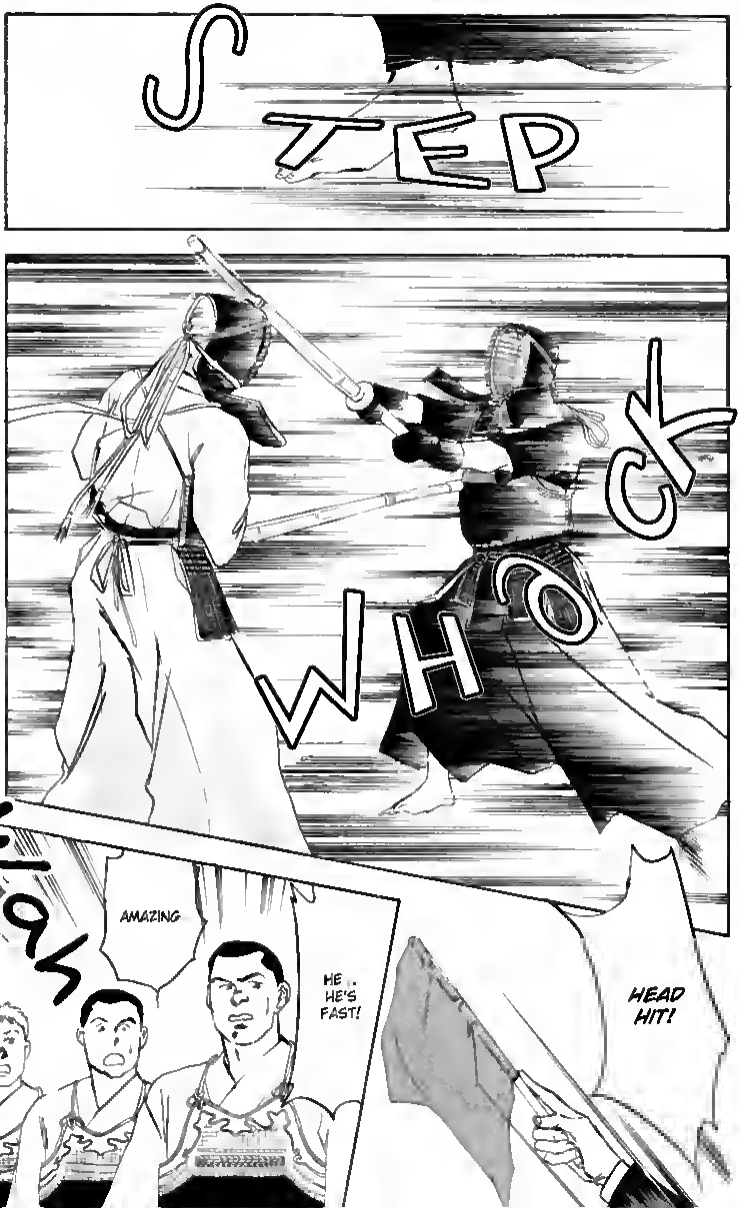
RISE

YEAH!
YEAH!

THIS BACK...
SURE LOOKS FAMIL-IAR.




THAT'S WHAT DE-CIDES THE MATCH EVEN BEFORE IT STARTS.
OH?!
THE WHITE ONE IS MORE AGGRESSIVE ...BUT HE'S FRIGHTENED.


STEP
WHACK
Wah
AMAZING
HE.. HE'S FAST!
HEAD HIT!

WHY HAS A GREAT FIGHTER LIKE HIM NEVER ATTENDED A REGULAR MATCH?!
YEAH, HE NEVER TOOK PART IN ANY TOURNA-MENT IN SHIMANE, EITHER.
I HAVE TO CHECK HIM OUT.
HE'S FROM TAKAO HIGH SCHOOL IN SHIMANE.
HIS NAME IS FU-ZUCHI ...
FUZUCHI KURAKI
GRAB
FU-ZUCHI?!
WHA— WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU?
RIP
jolt
UH!

CHEST HIT!
OH! THAT WAS BRIL-LIANT!

gulp
IT REALLY IS...
THE WINNER IS..
FUZUCHI KURAKI-KUN FROM TAKAO HIGH SCHOOL!
wa
KURAKI-KUN!

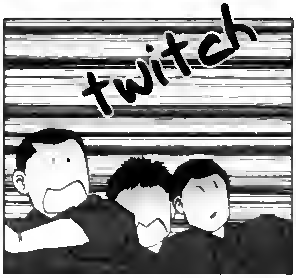
WHY—
W-
W-
ARE YOU HERE?
AS YOU CAN SEE, THIS IS A FESTIVAL FENCING TOURNAMENT.

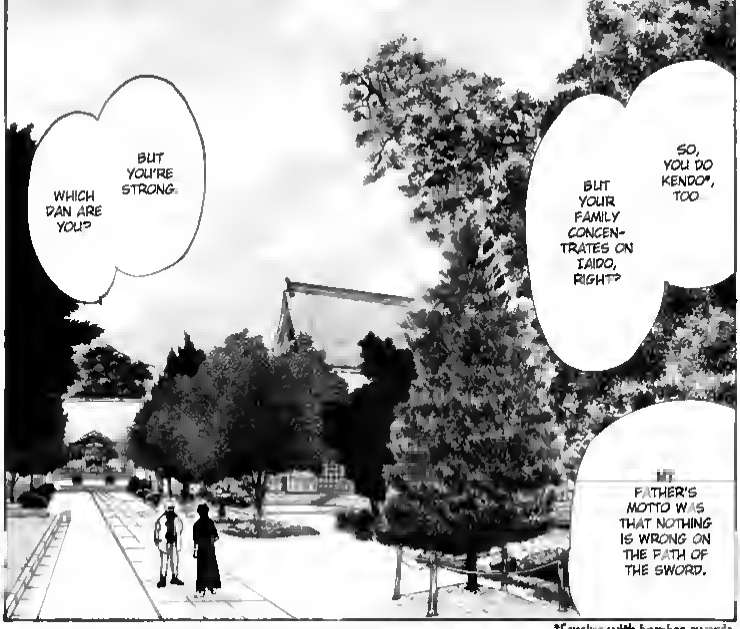
dun
That's a bad omen.
THAT'S A PORTENT OF AN UPCOMING NATURAL DISASTER!
I'VE NEVER SEEN IT BEFORE
FU — FUZUCHI SMILED!
YEAH, YOU'RE RIGHT

I'VE HURT MY LEG AND WANT TO SHOW IT TO THE DOCTOR.
BUMP
CAP-TAIN
MAY I SKIP THE LAST MEETING?

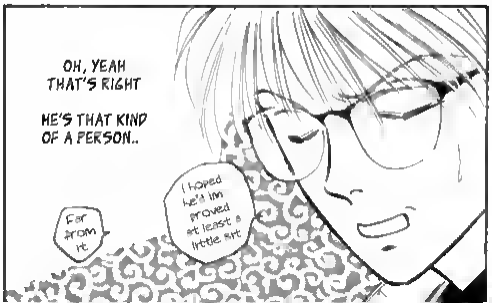
GLANCE

LIAR
HE EVEN FRIGHTENS THE CAP-TAIN —
B—BE CAREFUL ON YOUR WAY
O— OH, SURE
That's not my idea of a fair tourna-ment.

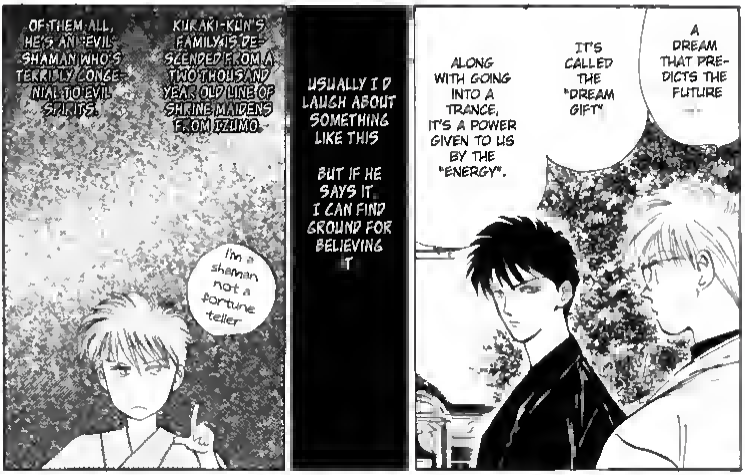

twitch


SO, YOU DO KENDO*, TOO
BUT YOUR FAMILY CONCENTRATES ON IAIDO, RIGHT?
MY FATHER'S MOTTO WAS THAT NOTHING IS WRONG ON THE PATH OF THE SWORD.
BUT YOU'RE STRONG.
WHICH DAN ARE YOU?

*Fencing with bamboo swords.



I'M GOING TO TRANSFER SOON.
BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOUR CALL!
YOU SAID THAT YOU'D TRANSFER TO A SCHOOL IN TOKYO, DIDN'T YOU?
HUH?
I KNEW THAT YOU'D BE IN KYOTO.
AND ...
I PLANNED TO MOVE AFTER THE FORTY-NINTH DAY AFTER MY FATHER'S DEATH
I WAS TOLD THAT THIS FESTIVAL FENCING TOURNAMENT WAS THE SINGLE ONE WE'VE ATTENDED AS ADVISERS SINCE WAY BACK, YOU SEE
I HAD A DREAM ...
ABOUT THE CHERRY BLOSSOMS IN THE OLD CAPITAL...
AND ABOUT YOU.


A DREAM THAT PREDICTS THE FUTURE
IT'S CALLED THE "DREAM GIFT"
ALONG WITH GOING INTO A TRANCE, IT'S A POWER GIVEN TO US BY THE "ENERGY".
USUALLY I'D LAUGH ABOUT SOMETHING LIKE THIS
BUT IF HE SAYS IT, I CAN FIND GROUND FOR BELIEVING IT
KUKAKI-KUN'S FAMILY IS DESCENDED FROM A TWO THOUSAND YEAR OLD LINE OF SHRINE MAIDENS FROM IZUMO.
OF THEM ALL, HE'S AN "EVIL SHAMAN" WHO'S TERRIBLY CONGENIAL TO EVIL SPIRITS.
I'm a shaman not a fortune teller.

THE DREAM CONTINUED ON,
WITH YOU...
STANDING IN A SEA OF BLOOD.

A SEA ...
IF I DON'T DO ANYTHING, YOU'LL DIE HERE IN THE OLD CAPITAL.
OF BLOOD?!
HUH?
SHOULD I RESCUE YOU?
ASK ME TO RESCUE YOU.
SMIRK

FREE TALK 〈2〉

さて、2年9か月もの間何をしていたかというと、別に遊んでいたわけではなくて単に第1話だけ描いて、前作「花咲ける青少年」を連載してたわけです。

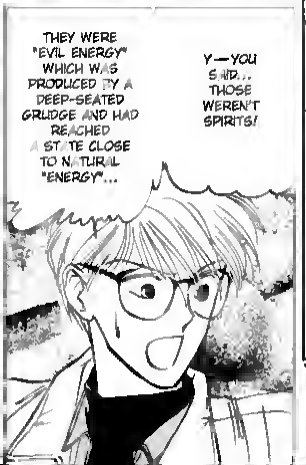
内容は豪華ケンラン。

宮殿だの大富豪の豪邸だの自白押し。

「八雲立つ」で急に日本が舞台になって実に新鮮な気分を味わいました。

特に七地君のマンションの間取りとかね。

くらき君の方は何だかんだいって、現実ばなれした大邸宅なのでねえ。



*extrasensory perception

EVEN EVIL SPIRITS ONLY ASSOCIATE WITH THE ABSOLUTE EVIL, THE SO-CALLED "EVIL NERGY".
WHAT WE DEAL WITH ARE GODS FROM ANCIENT TIMES AND SUMMONED "ENERGY".
THAT'S RIGHT. CURSING SOMEONE OR POSSESSING SOMEONE AND CAUSING THEIR DEATH ARE THINGS THAT PEOPLE DO
YES, MORE OR LESS
I ALSO SAID THAT A SHAMAN ISN'T AN EXORCIST AND THAT WE DON'T DO EXORCISMS
SPIRITS THAT STILL RETAIN THE MEMORY OF THEIR DAYS AS HUMANS ARE HARMLESS.
YOU SAID THAT!
YOU'RE THE GUY WHO'S ESSENTIAL TO GET BACK THE HOLY SWORDS WHICH WERE STOLEN FROM MY FAMILY.
BECAUSE YOU'RE A "DIRECTORY"
BUT NOW THAT YOU'RE INVOLVED, YOU CAN'T IGNORE IT

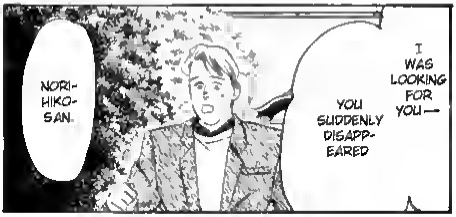
SO THERE'S A HIGH POSSIBILITY THAT THE OTHER FIVE SWORDS WILL COME TO YOU, TOO
I DON'T THINK IT WAS A COINCIDENCE AT ALL
YOU CAME TO IZUMO WITH THAT HOLY SWORD RIGHT WHEN YOU DID

BUT I THINK THAT HOLY SWORD THE OTHER DAY WAS COINCIDENCE
IT WAS A KEEPSAKE OF MY GRANDFATHER'S, AND SOMEONE HAD GIVEN IT TO US
THAT'S WHAT YOU SAY

CERTAINLY...
I ALSO HAD THE FEELING THAT I HAD A WEIRD DREAM...
BUT SINCE IT WAS A DREAM, AFTER ALL, SO IT FADED WITH TIME

five years his senior
I DON'T MIND, BUT...
I'm used to it already

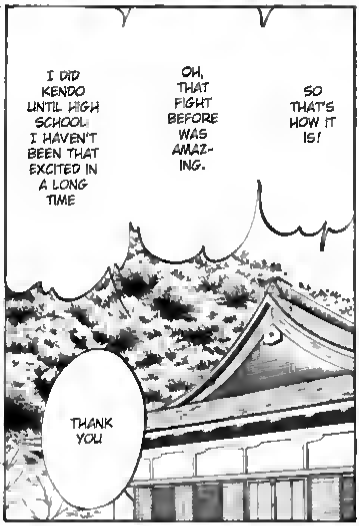
SO I'VE GOT NO CHOICE BUT TO PROTECT YOU
WITHOUT YOU I'LL BE IN TROUBLE, TOO
YOU SHOULD BE THANKFUL


NORI-HIKO-SAN.
YOU SUDDENLY DISAPP-EARED
I WAS LOOKING FOR YOU—

TAKEO-KUN!

ARE YOU A FRIEND OF TAKEO-KUN?!
W—WELL, YES—.
H—HUH?
YOU'RE FUZUCHI-KUN— FROM BEFORE!

I'M GOING BACK HOME TO IZUMO ON THE LAST TRAIN AFTER THIS
SAY, FUZUCHI-KUN! WHERE ARE YOU GOING TO STAY TO-NIGHT?


I DID KENDO UNTIL HIGH SCHOOL I HAVEN'T BEEN THAT EXCITED IN A LONG TIME
OH, THAT FIGHT BEFORE WAS AMAZ-ING.
SO THAT'S HOW IT IS!
THANK YOU

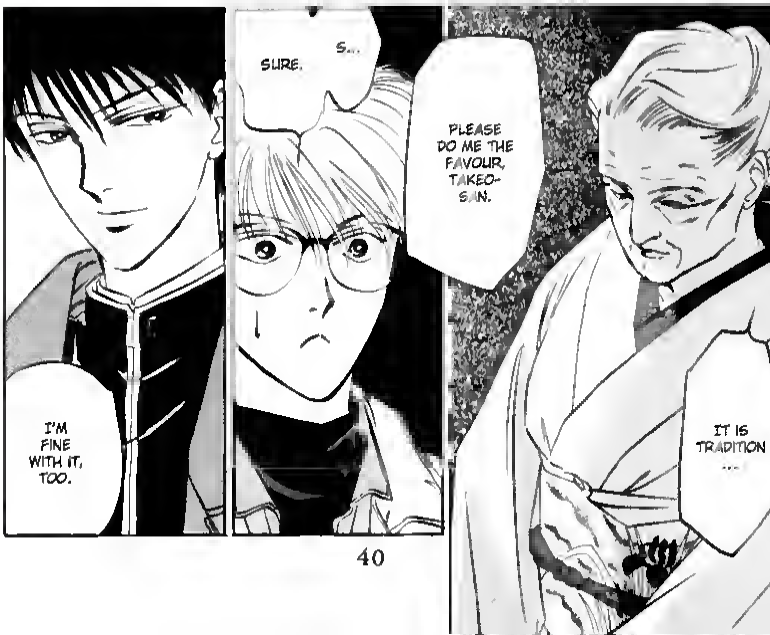
WOULD YOU GIVE ME THE PLEASURE OF STAYING OVER AT OUR HOTEL?!

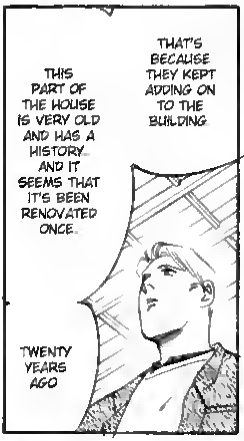
WE HAVE A FAMILY MEETING TODAY,
SO WE DON'T HAVE ANY GUESTS!
OF COURSE, YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT MONEY!
NORI-HIKO-SAN,
THAT'S A LITTLE SUDDEN...
HUH?
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
I'LL BE HAPPY TO ACCEPT YOUR KIND OFFER.
WELL, THEN...
I'LL GO GET MYSELF CHANGED.
OH, MY. WHAT A POLITE YOUNG MAN.
MUST BE NICE, BEING A YOUNG KENDO FIGHTER.
NORIHIKO-SAN, YOU MUSTN'T LET YOURSELF GET FOOLED...

AH, MOTHER!
NORIHIKO-SAN, THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP
I'M SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE.
MY RELATIVES SHOULD HAVE ASSEMBLED BY NOW, SO IF WE ENTER THROUGH THE MAIN ENTRANCE IT WOULD BE PRETTY NOISY.
THIS WAY, PLEASE.
WOULD YOU BE.
KUNIO-SAN'S NEPHEW?
THERE IS NO MISTAKING THAT YOU ARE RELATED
THIS WOMAN IS THE LANDLADY?
SHE REALLY IS INTIMIDATING...!
I'M NANACHI TAKEO

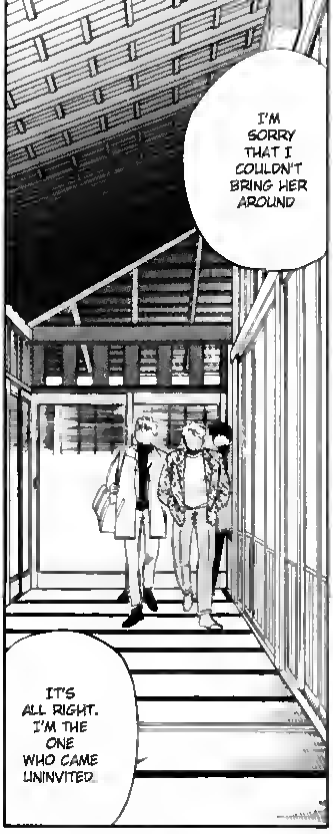
LET US FORGIVE AND FORGET THE INCIDENT THAT HAPPENED BETWEEN OUR FAMILIES
EXACTLY TWENTY YEARS AGO THIS YEAR.
I THINK IT WAS WRONG OF US... TO CUT YOUR FAMILY OFF FOR SUCH A LONG TIME.
EVEN THOUGH THE LOSS WAS EQUALLY PAINFUL ON BOTH SIDES.
NO, I MEAN ...
MY FATHER WILL ALSO BE HAPPY, THAT YOU SEE IT LIKE THAT.
I INVITED HIM TO STAY OVER AT OUR PLACE
TAKEO-KUN DOESN'T KNOW ANYBODY HERE, SO HE MUST FEEL LONELY, DON'T YOU THINK?
AND WHO WOULD THIS YOUNG MAN BE?
OH.. HE'S A GOOD FRIEND OF MINE. WE JUST MET UP BY CHANCE ...
MY NAME IS FUZUCHI.
THAT WAS RASH OF YOU
WE CAN'T PUT HIM UP IN THE MAIN HOUSE TONIGHT, BUT HE CAN MAKE FREE USE OF OUR GUEST-HOUSE

MOTHER!
TODAY WE WILL ANNOUNCE THE OFFICIAL SUCCESSOR OF THE "AMATSUJI"
IT IS TRADITION THAT ON THAT DAY ONLY FAMILY MEMBERS SLEEP IN THE MAIN HOUSE.
YOU SAID ONLY FAMILY MEMBERS, MOTHER.
BUT THE ONLY ONES THAT WIND UP SLEEPING IN THE MAIN HOUSE ARE YOU AND FATHER, RIGHT? EVERYONE ELSE LIVES IN HANSHIN SO THEY'LL GO HOME BY THE END OF THE DAY.
h this whole huge house
NOT AT ALL.
YOU ARE FAMILY, TOO.
OH, WELL...
THEN I'LL ALSO USE THE GUEST HOUSE...

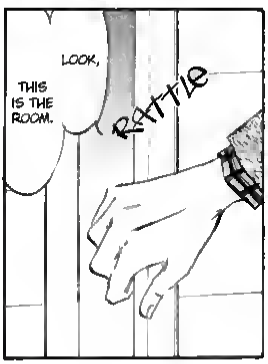

I'M FINE WITH IT, TOO.
S... SURE.
PLEASE DO ME THE FAVOUR, TAKEO-SAN.
IT IS TRADITION ...

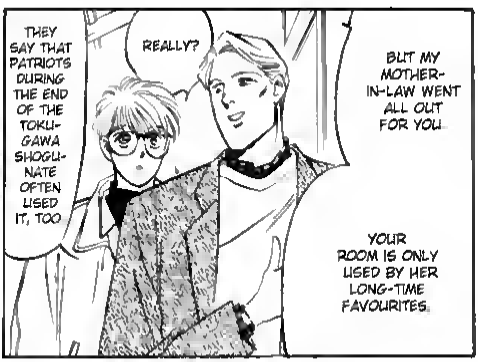

THIS PART OF THE HOUSE IS VERY OLD AND HAS A HISTORY. AND IT SEEMS THAT IT'S BEEN RENOVATED ONCE.
THAT'S BECAUSE THEY KEPT ADDING ON TO THE BUILDING.
TWENTY YEARS AGO

I COULDN'T EVEN FIND MY WAY BACK TO THE ENTRANCE FROM HERE
BUT IT REALLY IS HUGE.


I'M SORRY THAT I COULDN'T BRING HER AROUND
IT'S ALL RIGHT. I'M THE ONE WHO CAME UNINVITED.

I SEE. TWENTY YEARS AGO


LOOK, THIS IS THE ROOM.
RATTLE


THEY SAY THAT PATRIOTS DURING THE END OF THE TOKUGAWA SHOGUNATE OFTEN USED IT, TOO
REALLY?
BUT MY MOTHER-IN-LAW WENT ALL OUT FOR YOU.
YOUR ROOM IS ONLY USED BY HER LONG-TIME FAVOURITES.

WHAT'S WRONG, TAKEO-KUN?
COME IN
SHIVER

I JUST HAD A REALLY CREEPY FEELING.

BZZZZZ
WHOAH!
BOOM
WHA...
WHAT WAS THAT ELECTRICITY JUST NOW?!
ALL RIGHT.
YOU CAN COME ON IN, NANACHI

YOU'RE RIGHT...
NOW...
YOU SHOULDN'T FEEL UNWELL ANYMORE.
WHAT IS IT?!
WHA-
DO YOU FEEL SOMETHING? INSIDE THIS ROOM!
ARE YOU A SEER?! AMAZING!
I'M TELLING YOU, I DON'T HAVE ANY ESP* AT ALL.
I'D LIKE TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING SPECIAL...
WE KEEP SOMETHING INTERESTING INSIDE THE STOREHOUSE BEHIND THE HOTEL!
don't think that I want to see it...
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH...
THE "AMATSUJI" IS A HOUSE WITH AN AMAZING HISTORY
DON
NORIHIKO-SAN
NOT ONLY CAN HE SEE THEM, HE MAKES THEM DANCE TO HIS TUNE, TOO.
but this time I'm glad that he's here.

I DON'T KNOW WHICH ROOM IT EXTENDS TO, BUT THE RIDGES ON THE ROOF ...
WE'RE COVERED WITH THE CEILING FROM A MAJOR CULTURAL PROPERTY.
BUT THEY SAY THAT THEY USED AN ENTIRE CORRIDOR FROM THE TIME OF THE FALL OF MOMOYAMA CASTLE TO BUILD THE CEILING
THESE DAYS WE DON'T CONTRIBUTE TO THE KANROKU TEMPLE WE WERE JUST AT ANYMORE THOUGH
YOU REMEMBER THAT THIS WAS A CONVENT, RIGHT?
IT SEEMS THAT THEY DID THAT TO SOOTHE THE SOULS OF THE DECEASED.
S.. SOOTHE THE SOULS OF THE DCEASED...
bdmp
bdmp
bdmp
IS THIS.
THE ONLY THING THEY'VE LEFT BEHIND IN MEMORY OF THAT...
shock

WHA...
WHAT'S THIS?!
TH... THESE ARE BL... BLOOD-STAINS!
I DON'T WANT IT!
EVEN IF I DON'T HAVE ESP!
I SAID YOU DO
DON'T BE STUPID! THE LANDLADY WOULD NEVER MAKE YOU STAY IN A ROOM LIKE THAT, NOW WOULD SHE?
THAT'S RIGHT. FROM 400 YEARS AGO, THEY SAY THAT ASCETIC MONKS WERE STAYING HERE TO STUDY.
D.. DON'T TELL ME, THA... THAT ROOM

KU-RAKI-KUN—
I HAVE THE FEELING THAT YOUR DREAM IS COMING TRUE AT A RAPID PACE.
ISN'T THERE ANY WAY FOR ME TO STAY AT THE GUEST-HOUSE, TOO?
I DIDN'T EXACTLY SENSE ANYTHING FROM THAT CEILING.

BUT THERE IS ONE, RIGHT?
A GHOST.

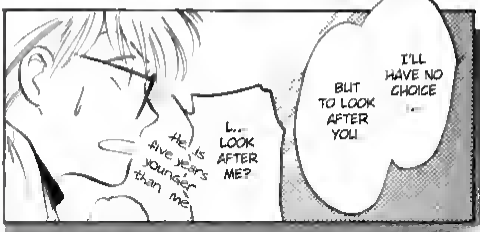
I HAVE NO CONTROL OVER NEW SPIRITS.
THEY'RE NOT VERY CLEAR.
I'm not interested in them, anyway.

AT LEAST ...
WHAT'S IN THAT ROOM ISN'T A 400 YEAR OLD SPIRIT.

KURAKI-KUN——
GHOSTS WAILING?
THEY'RE THE SPITEFUL CRYING OF DEPARTED SOULS
ABOUT A THOUSAND YEARS AGO KYOTO WAS THE CAPITAL OF THE YAMATO DYNASTY WHERE GREAT POWER IS CONCENTRATED, HATRED AND ENVY ALSO APPEAR.
THERE'S NOTHING UNUSUAL ABOUT A FEW SPIRITS IN THIS CAPITAL OF GHOSTS WAILING

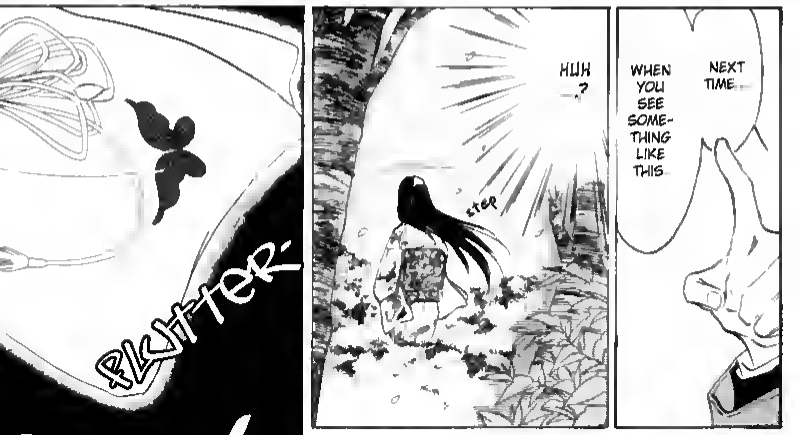
I KNOW THAT IT IS AFTER YOU
BUT EVEN IF I WANTED TO EXORCIZE IT, THERE'S NOTHING I CAN DO UNLESS IT SHOWS ITSELF CLEARLY.

BUT, WELL,
THE ONE THAT'S HERE SURE IS PRETTY WICKED FOR A NEW SPIRIT.
NO WAY!
FOR REAL?

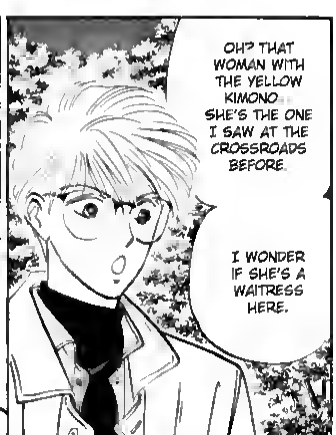

I'LL HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO LOOK AFTER YOU.
L... LOOK AFTER ME?
AL IS FIVE YEARS YOUNGER THAN ME.

IF YOU WANT ME TO HELP YOU, CALL FOR ME.

CALL FOR YOU...?
HOW?
LIKE I SAID,
CALL FOR ME.


NEXT TIME...
WHEN YOU SEE SOME-THING LIKE THIS
HUH...?
STER
FLUTTER

jolt
HMM, SO, THIS IS THE SECOND TIME.


OH? THAT WOMAN WITH THE YELLOW KIMONO... SHE'S THE ONE I SAW AT THE CROSSROADS BEFORE.
I WONDER IF SHE'S A WAITRESS HERE.

NANACHI-SAN?
YOU AND YOUR SICK JOKES...

SHOCK
HUH?

OKAY.
I UNDERSTAND.
WELL, THEN, KURAKI-KUN, I'LL COME TO THE GUESTHOUSE LATER

EXCUSE ME, BUT EVERYBODY HAS GATHERED.
NORIHIKO-SAN IS BUSY AT THE MOMENT, SO I CAME HERE TO PICK YOU UP.
HUH?
OH, SHE'S REAL.
HEH

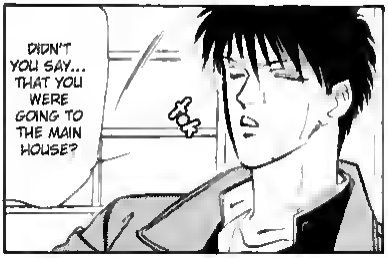
IT DOESN'T WORK LIKE THAT IN THIS WORLD
HM.
DID IT RUN AWAY?
IT'S A GHOST THAT SEEMS TO BE OBSESSED WITH MALICE AND HATRED.
NO MATTER IF YOU'RE AN EVIL GHOST OR ANYONE ELSE, THE PERSON...
YOU WANT TO MEET ONCE AGAIN CERTAINLY WON'T COME TO SEE YOU...
KURAKI!!

IT IS THE FATE OF THE HEAD OF THE FUZUCHI FAMILY TO BE KILLED BY THE NEXT HEAD AT THE AGE OF 49.
RETURN MY LIFE TO THE HEAVENS BY DECAPITATING ME!!
KURAKI!!
BRING BACK THE HOLY SWORDS TO BREAK THE CURSE OF IFUYA!
HFF
HFF
HFF
NEVER FORGET!!
YOU ARE THE SHAMAN THE FUZUCHI FAMILY HAS BEEN TRYING TO BRING FORTH FOR 2000 YEARS.
HFF

FATHER!!
AND THE BLOOD YOU SHED, AS WELL!!
UH..
RATTLE
HFF
HFF

WHAT'S WRONG?! ARE YOU FEELING SICK?
NO... IT'S NOTHING ...

KURAKI-KUN?!


DIDN'T YOU SAY... THAT YOU WERE GOING TO THE MAIN HOUSE?

I FORGOT TO TELL YOU THAT WE'LL ALL EATING DINNER TOGETHER AFTER THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE SUCCESSOR.
BUT I'M GLAD I CAME BACK!
YOU'RE WHITE AS A SHEET DO YOU NEED MEDICINE...?
NO, THANKS
THERE'S NO USE IN HIDING IT FROM YOU, IS THERE ...?

WHEN I REMEMBER THE MOMENT... I KILLED MY FATHER ...
THIS HAPPENS TO ME...
KURAKI-KUN..!
GO..! I'M ALL BETTER NOW
I DON'T NEED DINNER.
WE'RE RATHER PITIFUL..US HUMANS
I CAN'T HELP REMEMBERING IT OFTEN AT NIGHT
ARE YOU REALLY ALL RIGHT?
I'LL COME BACK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
YEAH

I'M SORRY I'M LATE
AH, TAKEO-KUN,
I WAS JUST ABOUT TO LOOK FOR YOU AGAIN
WHO REALLY NEEDS HELP?
ISN'T HE THE ONE...
I SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE CONCERNED ABOUT HIM.
BUT IT'S ONLY NATURAL, ISN'T IT...? HIS FATHER ONLY DIED ABOUT ONE MONTH AGO.
KURAKI-KUN WAS ACTING LIKE HIS OLD SELF AGAIN... SO I WAS TAKEN IN.
EVEN MURDER COMES UNDER THE STATUTE OF LIMITATION AFTER 20 YEARS
OF COURSE.
PLEASE, SIT DOWN
SO AMATSUJI'S AUNT COULD FINALLY BRING HERSELF TO LET BYGONES BE BYGONES
HOW NICE OF YOU TO COME HERE.
UNCLE!
EXCUSE ME!
IS THIS KUNIO-SAN'S?
BUZZ
HUH?
OH MY!
YOU SURPRISED ME... YOU LOOK A LOT LIKE HIM!

THANKS TO MY UNCLE KUNIO'S KINDNESS, EVERYBODY TREATS ME NICELY..
BUT THIS DOESN'T CHANGE THE FACT THAT IT'S HELL. AH, I HOPE THIS ENDS SOON.
I'm worried about Kuniki-kun too
I'M SORRY, NANACHI-KUN.
MY UNCLE'S DRUNK.
HA... HA, HA. IT DOESN'T MATTER.
RATTLE
I'M GLAD THAT YOU ALL TOOK THE TIME TO COME TO THE "AMATSUJI" TODAY
PLEASE FORGIVE ME THAT I KEPT YOU WORRYING ABOUT THE SUCCESSION FOR SO LONG.
click
OH MY, MIYO-SAN, CONGRATULATIONS ON THIS DAY.
YES, WE'RE GLAD THAT YOU FOUND A SUCCESSOR
OH, THANK YOU.
NORIHIKO-SAN, COME HERE.
I'M VERY GRATEFUL THAT WE'LL HAVE NORIHIKO FROM OUR DISTANT RELATIVES, THE GOTO FAMILY,
AS THE NEXT HEAD, HE'LL TAKE THE PLACE OF MY LATE HUSBAND.

THE "AMATSUJI" BELONGS TO NORIHIKO.
EVEN IF SHE WERE TO COME BACK NOW, I WOULDN'T BE WILLING TO LET HER IN
I'VE ALREADY GIVEN UP ON HER
FURTHERMORE, HE PLANS TO MARRY HIS FIANCEE, RITSUKO-SAN
SHE WILL BECOME THE NEW LANDLADY.
AS FOR SAYOKO
jolt
THIS IS FROM ME, FOR RITSUKO-SAN
IT'S A KIMONO WHICH THE LANDLADIES OF THE "AMATSUJI" HAVE WORN FOR GENERATIONS WHEN THEY FIRST WELCOME GUESTS.
THE "AMATSUJI" FAMILY CREST, FLYING BUTTERFLIES ON GOLDEN YELLOW GROUND
SAYOKO WAS VERY FOND OF THIS PATTERN, TOO
IT'S HAD THE SAME PATTERN FOR 150 YEARS
COME, TRY IT ON
OKAY.
FLUTTER

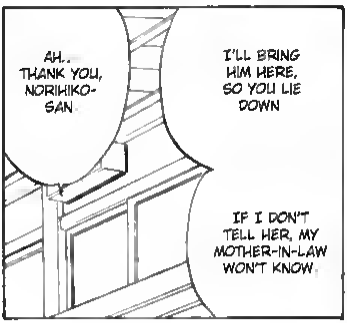
八雲立つ

OH, HOW TERRIBLE!
CRASH!
I'M SURE IT WAS THIS PATTERN!
I'M ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN...!
THE PATTERN THE LANDLADY WEARS...
IS THE ONE SAYOKO-SAN LIKED.
BUTTERFLIES ...ON GOLDEN YELLOW.
HAVE YOU STAINED YOUR CLOTHES? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
I... I'M SORRY ...
Y... YES.
WITH THIS I'VE SEEN IT THREE TIMES.
IT... IT COULDN'T BE...
THAT SLENDER, TALL, LONG-HAIRED WOMAN...

THAT WOMAN IS SAYOKO SAN?!
NO WAY. BECAUSE IF THAT IS A GHOST,
IT MEANS THAT SHE'S DEAD.

Swish
Grab
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, TAKEO-KUN?
EVERYBODY FORCED YOU TO DRINK. I'M SORRY.
NO PROBLEM USUALLY SUCH A LITTLE BIT DOESN'T AFFECT ME.
BUT IT IS STRANGE

I'LL JUST DROP IN AT THE GUEST-HOUSE, SINCE I'M WORRIED ABOUT KURAKI-KUN
WHY DON'T YOU REST A BIT AND GO LATER?


I'LL BRING HIM HERE, SO YOU LIE DOWN
AH.. THANK YOU, NORIHIKO-SAN
IF I DON'T TELL HER, MY MOTHER-IN-LAW WON'T KNOW.

KURAKI-KUN ISN'T HERE YET, I GUESS
MY HEAD IS CLEAR... BUT I FEEL SO HEAVY...
IT REALLY... IS STRANGE
I HAVE TO ASK HIM ABOUT THAT KIMONO...
SHHH

HUH?
Jolt

HUH?
DID I SWITCH OFF THE LIGHT?
WHAT TIME IS IT NOW?!
IT'S PITCH-DARK
OH NO.
I FELL ASLEEP WITHOUT REALIZING IT

THE SLIDING DOOR IS OPENING..
IS THAT KURAKI-KUN?
slide

I FELL ASLEEP LIKE THAT BECAUSE IT WAS SO TROUBLE-SOME, I GUESS
MY ARM WENT TO SLEEP. THAT OFTEN HAP-PENS WHEN I'M TIRED

H..
CRAP.
HUH?

Shock
A WOMAN'S HAND...?!
WAIT A MINUTE
WHY
IS IT SO DARK HERE...?
THAT WAS A CHAMBER-MAID, RIGHT? SHE THOUGHT I WAS ASLEEP AND CLOSED THE DOOR, DIDN'T SHE?!
HEY~! THIS IS BEYOND A JOKE!
Some-body tell me that's what it was!
That's right I'm sure it was a careless chamber-maid.
ASH

TONIGHT WE HAVE A FULL MOON. IT'S AS LIGHT AS DAY OUTSIDE.
WHY
IS IT DARK?!
drip
COLD...
IS IT LEAKING RAIN?
WHAT, DID IT RAIN AFTER ALL...?
HUH...?

ИН ..

SFX: DRIP
SFX: DRIP
SFX: DRIP

RATTLE
I'M LA...
H... HUH?
HOW ODD
WHERE ON EARTH DID KURAKI-KUN GO?
TAKEO-KUN, I'M SORRY
THE DOOR CAN'T BE JAMMED.
WHA.. WHAT THE
RATTLE
HOW DID THIS HAPPEN?!
THE DOOR WON'T OPEN!
M. MOTHER,
NORI-HIKO-SAN, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
TAKEO-SAN! YOU'RE IN THERE, AREN'T YOU?!
OPEN UP! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
SEE! IT IS STRANGE! IT WON'T MOVE A BIT!
NON-SENSE!
THERE AREN'T ANY ILL-FITTING DOORS AT THE "AMA-TSUJI"...
RATTLE
MO-THER ...!
THERE'S SOME-THING WRONG!

EEK!
I'M GOING TO BREAK IT DOWN!
A SLIDING DOOR LIKE THIS WON'T BE...
WOAH!
SHRIEK
NORI-HIKO-SAN!
WHA... WHAT'S THIS SOUND?!
YOU...
OUT OF MY WAY!

I CAN'T... SAY A WORD...
BOMP
HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO CALL FOR HELP, THEN?
BOMP
BOMP
!
I DON'T CARE WHO... BUT DO SOMETHING!

BUMP
BUMP
NO WAY—
slide
SOME-
BODY—
THIS
ISN'T..
FUNNY
FLUTTER
HELP

AH...
AAH, YOU'RE MEAN.
SO MEAN...
KUNIO...!
HOW COULD YOU LEAVE ME BEHIND...?

KURAKI
!!
whoosh

KU-RAKI-KUN!
HUH?
THE BLOOD... IS GONE!
THAT'S WHY..
I TOLD YOU TO CALL FOR ME.
WHY ARE YOU HAUNTING THIS PLACE?!
TELL ME! I'LL LISTEN TO YOU!

GIVE HIM BACK.
WHERE HAS HE BEEN?
AAAH!
THAT MAN...
GIVE HIM BACK.
THAT'S NOT TRUE.
YOU'RE LYING.
GIVE HIM BACK.
GIVE HIM BACK!
YOUR MAN ISN'T HERE.
ONLY YOU WERE LEFT BEHIND.

IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO EXORCISE HER WITHOUT CALLING THE "ENERGY"!
STEP BACK!
WHAT? BUT THERE'S NO HOLY SWORD HERE.
IT SEEMS THAT SHE'S STARTED TO TURN INTO "EVIL ENERGY" IN THESE 20 YEARS!
CRASH!
FOR EVIL ENERGY OF THIS LEVEL,
I CAN USE THIS SWORD...
AS A SUBSTI-TUTE!
WOAH!

TURN THIS SWORD INTO A HOLY SWORD...
WITH PURE WATER!
ENERGY THAT DWELLS IN THE GROUNDS OF THE ROYAL PALACE,
rustle
HEAR MY VOICE..
AND ANSWER ME!

APPROACH ME...
AND LEND ME YOUR POWER!
whoosh

THE
ECSTASY..
RUMBLE
BEGINS!
GOOK

HERE IT COMES!!
SFX: WHOOSH CRASH
WOAH!
FUZUCHI KURAKI-KUN'S FACE DISAPPEARS
AND A GENDERLESS SHAMAN,
NEITHER MAN NOR WOMAN,
APPEARS...!

KEN!!
KAN,
GON,
SHIN,
SON,
RI,
KON,
DA,

SFX: WHACK
SFX: GYAH
AAAAH

BUBBLE
GLUG

AAAH!
FORGIVE ME, SAYOKO!
THAT YOU WERE FORCED TO HAUNT THIS PLACE FOR 20 YEARS... IS MY FAULT...!
M... MOTHER, DOES THIS MEAN THAT THIS MONSTER WAS SAYOKO-SAN?
S— SO, SAYOKO-SAN IS—
SO THE STORY THAT SHE RAN AWAY WAS..
DON'T TELL ME.
MY UNCLE KUNIO IS..
P... PLEASE... FORGIVE ME,
TAKEO-SAN.

SO, I... AND ZANZO-SAN... BURIED THE TWO OF THEM IN THE GARDEN!
IF SOMETHING LIKE THAT WOULD HAVE BECOME KNOWN, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN THE END FOR THE "AMATSUJI".
RIGHT AFTER THAT SHE HANGED HERSELF ...
SAYOKO ... KILLED HIM
SHE KILLED KUNIO-SAN ...WHO WANTED A DIVORCE!
HOW ...
HOW COULD YOU.. MOTHER!
I DIDN'T WANT THE HOTEL THAT WAS ENTRUSTED TO ME BY MY ANCESTORS TO BE RUINED!
IT WAS THE ONLY WAY TO PROTECT THE "AMATSUJI"
I... I NEVER THOUGHT THAT SAYOKO WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO DEPART IN PEACE FOR 20 YEARS ...

SAYOKO-SAN IS NO MORE.
I CUT AND DISPERSED THE SOUL THAT WAS HAUNTING THIS PLACE
HER REMAINS ARE OVER THERE, I GUESS.
HUH ..?
SSSh
S

AAH!
WHOA!
UNCLE

click
IT SEEMS THAT IT'S A CONVERTED ATTIC.
HE LIKED THE SPACE, APPARENTLY
THEY SAY THAT THE BLOODY ROOF I TOLD YOU ABOUT, WAS ONLY PUT UP THERE 20 YEARS AGO.
BELOW IT IS THAT ROOM.
creak
THIS IS THE ROOM KUNIO-SAN USED AS A STUDY.
YES,
IS IT...
HERE?
IT WASN'T COVERED WITH TATAMI MATS BACK THEN, EITHER, RIGHT?
TRAILS OF BLOOD RAN OVER THE FLOOR, DRIPPED DOWN..
THE BLOOD THAT WAS SHED 20 YEARS AGO... IS BELOW THESE MATS, I GUESS..
DID SAYOKO-SAN'S GRUDGE SOAK INTO THE BLOODY ROOF, TOO?
AND MIXED... WITH THE BLOOD FROM 400 YEARS AGO.

I HEARD IT FROM MY MOTHER!! THAT YOU WANT A DIVORCE...
KUNIO!
IF THERE WAS ANY TIME WHEN YOU WERE HAPPY WITH ME AFTER WE MARRIED.
YOU MISTRUST ME IN EVERYTHING AND BELIEVE STUPID RUMOURS RATHER THAN ME.
KUNIO!
I WONDER...
LET'S PUT AN END TO OUR ARGUMENTS.
AFTER ALL, YOU WON'T BELIEVE ME, NO MATTER WHAT I SAY.
YOU'LL GO TO HER, RIGHT...?
SO... THERE IS A WOMAN... AFTER ALL...
I TOLD YOU THAT I DON'T WANT ANY MORE FIGHTING.
NO...
IF WE KEEP THIS UP WE'LL ONLY END UP MAKING EACH OTHER UNHAPPY.
YOU DON'T KNOW...
HOW YOU ATTRACT WOMEN!
I... I FEEL INSECURE!
THERE'S NO ONE EXCEPT YOU...
STOP IT!
I'M YOUR HUSBAND!

SA...
YO...
STAB
I'VE NEVER BETRAYED YOU...
SAYOKO! I'LL SAY THIS FOR THE LAST TIME.
AT LEAST BELIEVE ME IN THIS!
THEN...
KUNIO...
IF YOU WANT ME TO GIVE YOU TO ANOTHER WOMAN--
I HAVE NO OTHER CHOICE ..
I'LL SEND YOU TO A PLACE WHERE NO ONE CAN REACH YOU!

FREE TALK 〈3〉

舞台となる街も実際にある街をモデルにしようと思い、ロケハンしてきました。さーて、どこでしょう。

ヒント
中央線沿いです。

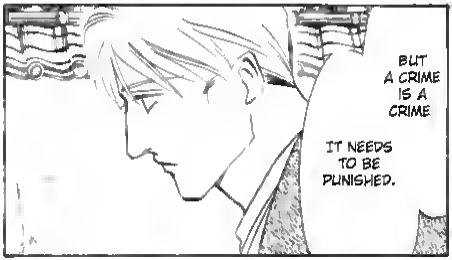
あ、こんな事言っても東京近辺の人にしかわからんか。

わかんない人は東京の路線図手に入れて調べてみよう。

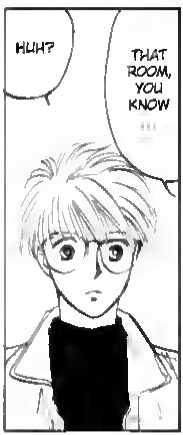
七地君の街はロケハンずみですが、くらき君の叔父さんの街はまだ決まっていません。

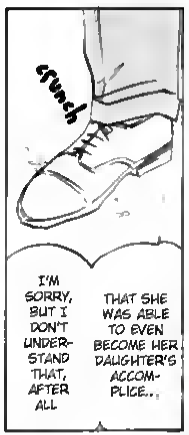
今、二つほど候補があるのですが、うーむ。

第3巻あたりでは決定してると思うので、推理してみてね。


BUT A CRIME IS A CRIME
IT NEEDS TO BE PUNISHED.

YEAH...
THIS IS THE END FOR THE "AMATSUJI", TOO. ISN'T IT..?
THE POLICE... WERE HERE THIS MORNING.
THEY LEFT THE CORPSES UNTOUCHED, AND I DON'T THINK THAT THEY'RE GOING TO MAKE A CAPITAL CRIME OUT OF IT


HUH?
THAT ROOM, YOU KNOW...


crunch
I'M SORRY, BUT I DON'T UNDERSTAND THAT, AFTER ALL
THAT SHE WAS ABLE TO EVEN BECOME HER DAUGHTER'S ACCOMPLICE...

MY MOTHER-IN-LAW'S LOVE FOR THE "AMATSUJI" ISN'T A LAUGHING MATTER.
TO AGREE SO EASILY TO BECOME THE NEXT HEAD
I SAID THAT I WAS INTERESTED IN RUNNING A JAPANESE RESTAURANT, BUT NOW I THINK THAT IT WAS RASH...

MY MOTHER-IN-LAW SAID THAT SHE GAVE IT TO YOU ON PURPOSE.
RATHER THAN SAYOKO-SAN..
SHE WANTED TO AT LEAST HAVE SOME-ONE OF KUNIO-SAN'S FAMILY STAY THERE AS A MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR HIS SOUL
BECAUSE
SHE WAS FOND OF HIM.
IS THAT SO ..?
WELL THEN, I'LL LEAVE YOU HERE
TAKE CARE.
THANK YOU GOOD BYE, NORI-HIKO-SAN.
A CRIME IS A CRIME...

KURAKI-KUN!!
HOW GRAVE IS THAT CRIME...
COMPARED TO JUST BURYING SOME CORPSES?
AND I, THE MURDERER OF MY FATHER,
AM AT LARGE AND WORRY-FREE
OW
SLAP

STOP THIS CRAZY TALK!

.....

I THINK THAT THE PATH YOU CHOSE IS MUCH HARDER THAN SIMPLY ATONING FOR A CRIME.
AND YOUR FATHER ASKED FOR IT, TOO! I'M NOT SAYING THAT YOU SHOULD FORGET ABOUT IT, BUT DON'T BE SO HARD ON YOURSELF!

I'M NOT CONVINCED YET..
BUT IF YOU SAY THAT THE HOLY SWORDS WILL GATHER AROUND ME, I'LL HELP YOU!
AND IF THERE'S ANYTHING ELSE WITHIN MY POWER, I'LL DO IT!

MAYBE ...
YOU ARE FUNDAMENTALLY SIMILAR TO KUNIO-SAN.
HUH?
EVEN ... IF YOU WERE KILLED,
YOU'D FORGIVE RIGHT AWAY AND GO TO THE OTHER WORLD, TOO.
I DON'T KNOW. I'VE NEVER BEEN KILLED
BY ME.
WEREN'T YOU?
BUT YOU WERE ALMOST KILLED...

YOU COMING HERE...
SAVED ME.

ARE PEOPLE...
THAT CAN TAKE THE HAND OF DEATH DELIBERATELY AND CALMLY
WHAT I FEAR THE MOST.. IN THIS WORLD
KURAKI-KUN, KURAKI-KUN,
AREN'T YOU HUNGRY?

WE CAME ALL THE WAY TO KYOTO.
LET'S GO TO THE NANZENJI TEMPLE AND EAT SOME BOILED BEAN CURDS.
OKAY?
WHAT'S SO GREAT ABOUT EATING SOMETHING LIKE THAT?
I....

Yakumo Tatsu

Scanned & Translated
Yuriko
Edited
Drack
Quality Check
Kalendel

Storm in Heaven
www.storminheaven.net

Festival of the
Young Prince (1)

TAKE-CHAN,
A CALL FOR YOU.
FROM EMA-SENPAI

I TOLD YOU TO CALL ME BIG BROTHER!
YUKA!
WHY ARE YOU TELLING ME THAT NOW?
WAH!
D...
DON'T THROW THE PHONE AROUND.
HERE,
HURRY UP AND ANSWER.

YOU'RE A MOVING MAN, RIGHT...?
HUH?
TODAY?!
BUT I NEED ANOTHER PERSON TODAY, NO MATTER WHAT.
ONE OF US SUDDENLY CAME DOWN WITH A COLD.
YUKA!
HEY!
AH, NANACHI!
IS SHE IN HER REBELLIOUS PHASE? DARN.
I KNOW IT'S SHORT NOTICE, BUT COULD YOU HELP ME OUT AT MY PART-TIME JOB?!
SENPAI
I'M SORRY TO MAKE YOU WAIT,
DO YOU HAVE PLANS?
WELL... KURAKI-KUN...
MIGHT COME TODAY.

TAKE-CHAN,
BUT ...
I DON'T REALLY KNOW IF IT'S TODAY OR NOT.
DON'T WORRY YEAH, LATER.
IT'S ALL RIGHT I'LL COME.
AH, NO.
YOU CAN'T HELP, THEN.
I SEE
STU...?!
YOU AREN'T GOING TO GET ANY-THING OUT OF HANGING OUT WITH SOMEONE LIKE HIM
YOU ALWAYS LET EMA-SAN TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOU.
YOU LEND HIM MONEY AND YOUR NOTES ALL THE TIME TOO, DON'T YOU?
YOU'RE SO STUPID.

"CHOOSE"...? YOU'RE LOOKING AT IT THE WRONG WAY
WE'RE FRIENDS BECAUSE WE LIKE EACH OTHER!
HMPH.
THAT'S PERVERTED.
SO, HOW DO YOU CHOOSE YOUR FRIENDS?
BESIDES, HE HELPED ME OUT A LOT, TOO..
YOU DON'T GET ANYTHING FROM A FRIEND.
I'M CONFISCATING THIS!!
SNKD
AH!
GO AHEAD AND LET HIM TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOU OUT OF SHEER FRIENDSHIP.
SO...
YOU'RE... KIND OF A MISTAKEN
PER...

HIGH SCHOOL FRESHMEN DON'T SMOKE
THAT'S MY BUSINESS!
GIVE IT BACK!
NOBODY LIKES GIRLS THAT SMELL LIKE CIGARETTES
NONE OF MY FRIENDS S_Y THAT.
YOU OLD GEEZER!
DONG
OLD...

MOTHER ...
That's shame
I WONDER WHY SHE'S LIKE THIS
YOU NEVER WENT THROUGH A REBELLIOUS PHASE, SO HERS IS UNUSUALLY STRONG, I GUESS.
WHAT DID YOU CALL YOUR BIG BROTHER?
YUKA!
BAM
YUKA!
I JUST HOPE THERE AREN'T ANY STRANGE GUYS
SHE OFTEN GETS CALLS FROM MALE FRIENDS, TOO

FREE TALK 〈4〉

七地家はこくごく一般の中流の上くらいの家庭（自称じゃなくね）。

お父さんは大手の部長クラスである。

そんなわけで、LDKが20畳はあろうかと思われる、少し広めの3LDKに住んでいるわけだ。

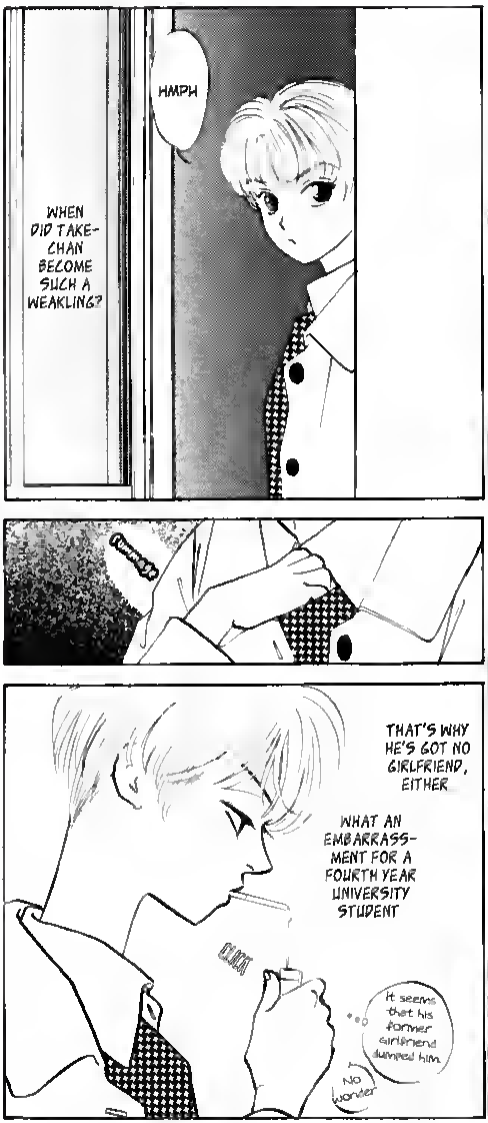
日当たりの良い東南角部屋。

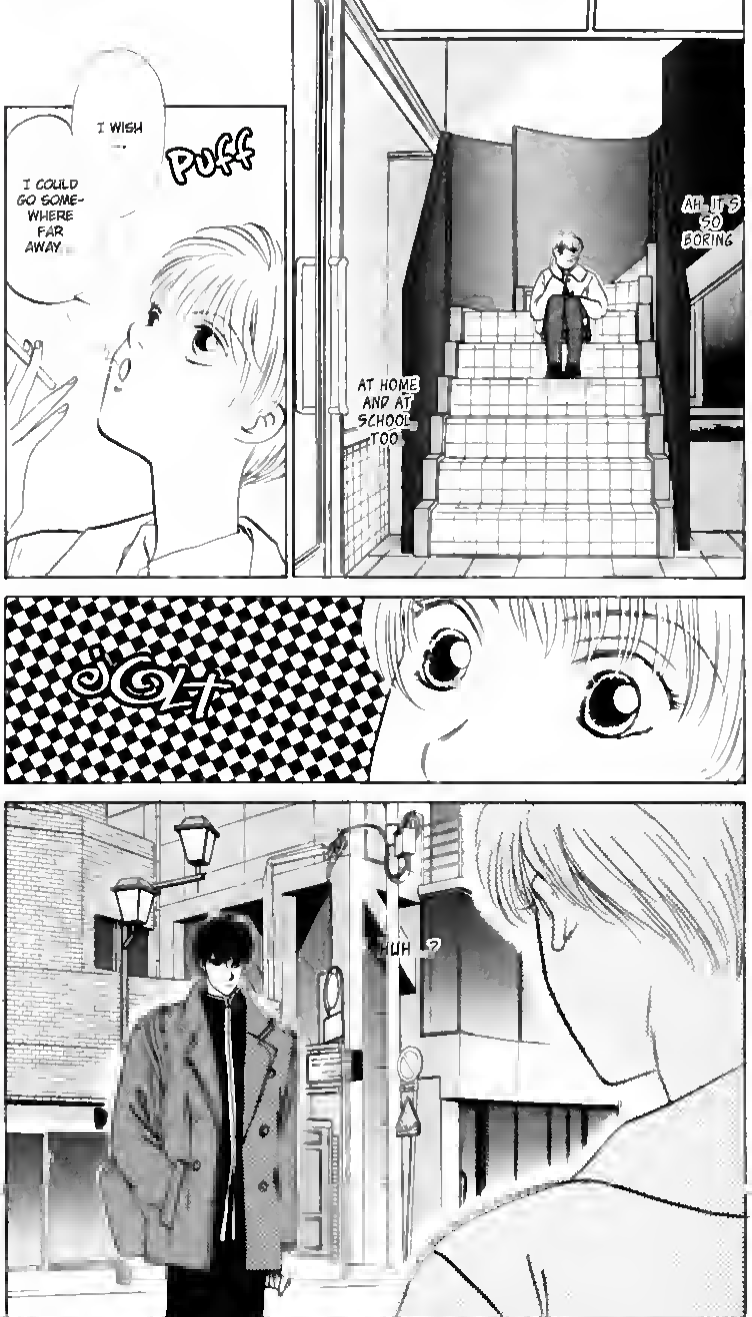
分譲だしおそらくこりゃ20年ローンはかたい。

がんばれ!!
七地父!!

…てな事まで考えられて、この話は私にとっても結構楽しい。

別の所ではとっても苦しい部分も持ってる話なので、こういう所で息抜きするわけです。


I'LL TALK TO HIM.
He doesn't stick out though.
My eyes not bad either
I'm late.
HMPH
WHEN DID TAKE-CHAN BECOME SUCH A WEAKLING?
THAT'S WHY HE'S GOT NO GIRLFRIEND, EITHER
WHAT AN EMBARRASS-MENT FOR A FOURTH YEAR UNIVERSITY STUDENT
CLICK
It seems that his former girlfriend dumped him.
No wonder


I WISH I COULD GO SOMEWHERE FAR AWAY...
PUFF
AH, IT'S SO BORING
AT HOME AND AT SCHOOL TOO
HUH?

GAZE
STARE
SO WHAT AM I...!
WE DON'T HAVE ANY TUTOR'S EITHER?
CLIMB
AH!
WHAT AM I DOING?
ISN'T HE JUST A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT, LIKE ME?
GASP
pat pat pat
Stomp Stomp

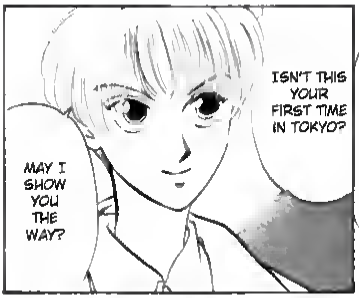
DON'T STARE AT PEOPLE, OKAY?!
WHAT'S WITH YOU?

HUH?!

I WAS WAITING FOR YOU TO FINISH YOUR CIGARETTE.

YOU...
ARE NANACHI'S LITTLE SISTER, AREN'T YOU?

YEAH.
AH ...!!
ARE YOU FUZUCHI ...KUN? FROM SHIMANE?
TAKE-CHAN... MY BIG BROTHER WENT TO WORK.
NANA-CHI'S...?
HUH ...?
IS HE NOT AT HOME?
DID I JUST MISS HIM?
HM.
HEH... THIS GUY...
I THOUGHT... HE'D BE MORE FLAIN..
HE'S THE ONE TAKE-CHAN MADE FRIENDS WITH WHEN HE WAS IN IZUMO
HE'S TOTALLY DIFFERENT... FROM WHAT I IMAGINED..


ISN'T THIS YOUR FIRST TIME IN TOKYO?
MAY I SHOW YOU THE WAY?

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!
DO YOU ALREADY HAVE A PLACE TO STAY?!
I'LL COME BY AGAIN
AH, WAIT A SEC!!

I'M GOING TO MY UNCLE'S PLACE
SURE

YOU'RE ...
... ANNOY-ING!!

I'M SURE YOU'D GET LOST!
SINCE I DON'T HAVE ANY PLANS TODAY
I'M COMPLETELY AT YOUR SERVICE.

CONSID-ERING...
THAT YOU'RE NANACHI'S SISTER, YOU'RE PRETTY SLOW
WHAT...?!

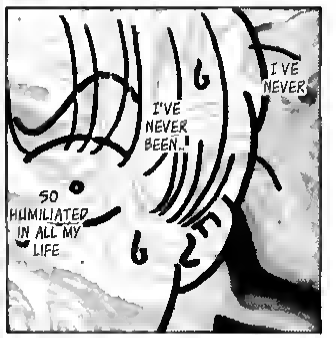
T/N: famous Japanese actress

I, WHO THEY CALL THE YUKI UCHIDA* OF THE CHUO LINE AND WHO HAS LOADS OF LETTERS FROM SCOUTS~
All written politely
ANNOY-ING?!
A... AND AFTER I TOLD HIM THAT I'D GO TO THE TROUBLE OF SHOWING HIM THE WAY
DID HE SAY ANNOYING?!
NO MATTER HOW HANDSOME HE MAY BE, HE'S JUST SOME COUNTRY BUMPKIN
HE'S LOOKING DOWN ON A TOKYO GIRL EVEN THOUGH HE'S A HICK!
HEY, YOU!!
ANNOYING?!

"Hmph."
?!
"NICE"
?!
bonk
AND AFTER I WAS TRYING TO BE NICE TO YOU!!
SUCH A THING TO ME?
HOW DARE YOU SAY...
AREN'T YOU CONFUSING THAT WITH BEING CURIOUS?

I'LL NEVER, NEVER, NEVER FORGIVE HIM
NOT UNTIL HE BEGS ME FOR FORGIVE-NESS ON HIS KNEES!!

HURRY UP AND GO HOME
KWOOSH
I... I...
I..

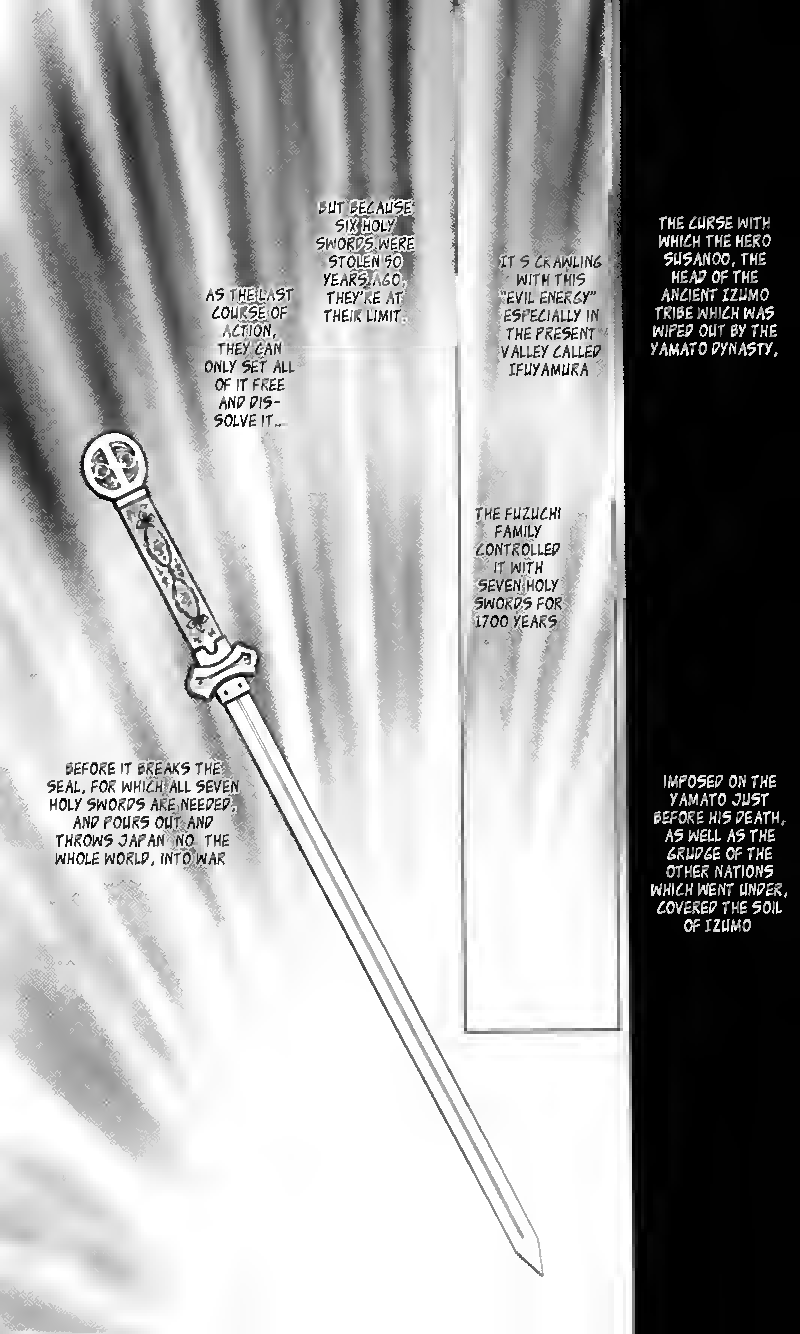

I'VE NEVER
I'VE NEVER BEEN...
SO HUMILIATED IN ALL MY LIFE

THANKS, NANACHI
YOU SAVED ME.
PSH
GOOD WORK.
I'LL PUT THE CANNED COFFEE HERE. GET SOME REST.
AH, THANK YOU.
NO PROBLEM. ACTUALLY, YOU HELPED ME OUT.
I WANTED TO GIVE KURAKI-KUN A HOUSEWARMING, BUT I'M SHORT ON CASH.
BUT THE FUZUCHI FAMILY IS ALSO IN CHARGE OF THE FUZUCHI SHINTO SCHOOL AND IAIDO SCHOOL— SO HE'S ALSO HEAD OF THOSE.
WELL, KURAKI-KUN IS THE "SUZERAIN", OR HEAD, OF THE FUZUCHI FAMILY.
SO I DON'T THINK THAT'S THE CASE.
rabbit moving
OH, KURAKI-KUN!!
DID HE FINALLY COME TO TOKYO? HE WANTED TO STAY AT HIS UNCLE'S PLACE, RIGHT?
BUT THAT'S AMAZING FOR SOMEONE WHO'S ONLY 16.
I DON'T QUITE GET IT,
HE ISN'T WORRIED ABOUT TROUBLING HIS UNCLE?

HE LETS THE "ENERGY" CALLED "GODS" TAKE POSSESSION OF HIMSELF COMPLETELY. THE ENERGY IS NOTHING BUT NATURAL ENERGY WHICH HAS GATHERED OVER THOUSANDS OF YEARS.
BUT DIDN'T THEY TELL US THAT THE FUZUCHI FAMILY WAS A LINE OF SHRINE PRIESTS?
IS HE GOING TO EXORCIZE GHOSTS IN TOKYO OR SOMETHING?
NO, SENPAI. I HEARD THAT SHRINE PRIESTS ARE DIFFERENT FROM SO-CALLED EXORCISTS.
TO SUM IT UP, THE GODS SPEAK THROUGH THEM AND LEND THEM THEIR POWERS...
EVEN NOW... AFTER I'VE SEEN IT WITH MY OWN EYES, I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
WHEN HE'S POSSESSED, HE TURNS INTO A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PERSON.
NEITHER MAN NOR WOMAN... LONELY HUMAN BEING.
THAT'S NOT NECESSARY.
YOU HAVE TO LET ME DO SOMETHING!!
ANYWAY, I'M NOT SOME OUTSIDER ON THIS, EITHER.
YOU HAVE TO LET ME DO SOMETHING, NO MATTER WHAT!!
YES, IT IS! YOUR FRIENDS ARE MY FRIENDS!!
BECAUSE OF THIS, TOO—
COME ON
DEBU

I'M INDEBTED TO YOU TO THE END OF TIME
I'M TRULY SORRY, NANACHI
PLEASE MAKE SURE TO GIVE IT BACK NEXT MONTH.
BY THE WAY, THAT GIRL DIDN'T COME?
KURAKI'S BIG SISTER, YASUKO-CHAN.
KUH?
YASUKO-CHAN?!
DON'T BE STUPID
W—WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
SO YOU—!
AH! THAT REACTION SAYS EVERY-THING!
SENPAI... HAVE YOU STILL NOT GIVEN UP ON THAT EVIL LITTLE SISTER OF MINE...?
I'M JUST SO GENER-OUS.
SINCE I STILL HAVE YUKA-CHAN, YOU KNOW.
Actually, neither of them belongs to you.
ALL RIGHT! JUST LEAVE IT TO ME.
DON'T BE SO SHY.
I'LL LET YOU HAVE YASUKO-CHAN!!
EMA-SENPAI, YOU GOT IT ALL WRONG. I'VE NEVER...
GENTLE-MEN, DON'T MAKE SO MUCH NOISE.
SENPAI.

TO ME SHE'S A PRETTY EVIL SISTER.
I don't really want to have the same name as her
White rose? Who says that?
ARE YOU STILL CLAIMING TO BE HER BIG BROTHER AND HAVE THE SAME NAME AS HER?
YUKA-CHAN, WHO'S EVEN CALLED THE SINGLE WHITE ROSE OF THE CHUO LINE?
EVIL LITTLE SISTER ?!
NO, YUKA-CHAN IS BORN IN APRIL, SO THEY'RE THE SAME AGE, AREN'T THEY?
SHE DOESN'T HAVE A BIT IN COMMON WITH KURAKI-KUN..
SPEAKING OF HER,
bleh
KURAKI-KUN HAS TO CARRY ON HIS BACK
WHAT A HEAVY BURDEN
EVEN THOUGH HE'S A YOUNG MAN OF 16,
THE SAME AGE ?
HE, THE HEAD SHAMAN, WHO IS DESCENDED FROM THE 2000 YEAR OLD IZUMO TRIBE, HAS TO DISSOLVE ALL THE EVIL ENERGY OF SUSANOO'S CURSE.


THE CURSE WITH WHICH THE HERO SUSANOO, THE HEAD OF THE ANCIENT IZUMO TRIBE WHICH WAS WIPED OUT BY THE YAMATO DYNASTY,
IMPOSED ON THE YAMATO JUST BEFORE HIS DEATH, AS WELL AS THE GRUDGE OF THE OTHER NATIONS WHICH WENT UNDER, COVERED THE SOIL OF IZUMO
IT'S CRAWLING WITH THIS "EVIL ENERGY" ESPECIALLY IN THE PRESENT VALLEY CALLED IFUYAMURA
THE FUZUCHI FAMILY CONTROLLED IT WITH SEVEN HOLY SWORDS FOR 1700 YEARS
BUT BECAUSE SIX HOLY SWORDS WERE STOLEN 50 YEARS AGO, THEY'RE AT THEIR LIMIT.
AS THE LAST COURSE OF ACTION, THEY CAN ONLY SET ALL OF IT FREE AND DISSOLVE IT...
BEFORE IT BREAKS THE SEAL, FOR WHICH ALL SEVEN HOLY SWORDS ARE NEEDED, AND POURS OUT AND THROWS JAPAN NO THE WHOLE WORLD, INTO WAR

I WONDER IF I ACTUALLY AM'RE-LATED TO THE IZUMO LINE BY BLOOD
KURAKI-KUN DOESN'T KNOW, BUT HE INSISTS THAT THE HOLY SWORDS WILL COME TO ME
THAT KURAKI-KUN'S FAMILY, OR [redacted] THE IZUMO LINEAGE, IS STUCK WITH BREAKING THE CURSE. EVEN [redacted] THEY'RE DESCENDED FROM THE VERY SAME TRIBE.
IF I THINK ABOUT IT, IT IS FATE, I GUESS.
BUT

I WONDER IF THAT DREAM I HAD IN IFUYA COULD HAVE BEEN THE TRUTH, THEN...
HOW LONG...
DO YOU INTEND TO FOLLOW ME?
I'M NOT!!
I JUST HAVE SOME BUSINESS HERE, TOO
NANA-CHI WILL BE WOR-RIED
GO HOME
DON'T JUST CALL TAKE-CHAN "NANACHI"
HE'S FIVE YEARS OLDER THAN YOU.
NA-NACHI...
IS NA-NACHI, ISN'T HE?
TH-THIS GUY—

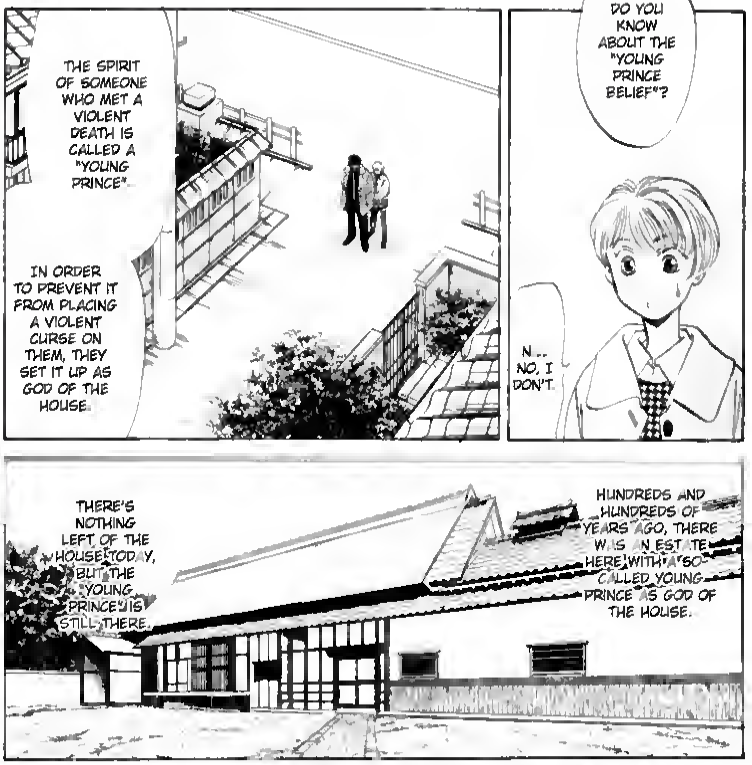
THE SHORTCUT TO THE STATION
THE "ALLEY OF THE YOUNG PRINCE"
THIS IS NO GOOD!!
HE WANTS TO GO THROUGH THAT PATH!!

AH!!

I CAN'T WALK FAST IT.
I CAN'T WALK FAST IT
IT'S FRIGHTENING!!

ARE YOU AFRAID OF THIS PATH?

HUH ...?
DUMP
YOU ARE NANAGHI'S LITTLE SISTER, AFTER ALL
"ALLEY OF THE YOUNG PRINCE"?
I SEE, "YOUNG PRINCE".
HUH ..?
DOES THAT MEAN SOME-THING?
SAY, YOU KNOW ABOUT IT TOO, RIGHT?!
THE ALLEY OF THE YOUNG PRINCE IS SCARY, ISN'T IT?!
YOU FEEL SOMETHING, DON'T YOU?


THE SPIRIT OF SOMEONE WHO MET A VIOLENT DEATH IS CALLED A "YOUNG PRINCE".
IN ORDER TO PREVENT IT FROM PLACING A VIOLENT CURSE ON THEM, THEY SET IT UP AS GOD OF THE HOUSE.
DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE "YOUNG PRINCE BELIEF"?
N... NO, I DON'T.
THERE'S NOTHING LEFT OF THE HOUSE TODAY, BUT THE "YOUNG PRINCE" IS STILL THERE.
HUNDREDS AND HUNDREDS OF YEARS AGO, THERE WAS AN ESTATE HERE WITH A SO-CALLED YOUNG PRINCE AS GOD OF THE HOUSE.

AN EVIL GHOST WOULD STILL BE FINE,
AS LONG AS IT STILL HAS HUMAN FEELINGS
AN EVIL GHOST?
WHAT IS... "EVIL ENERGY"?
FOR THAT CENTURY OR SO IT WAS LEFT TO ITSELF.
IT BECAME MORE AND MORE EVIL...
AND CAN ALREADY BE CALLED "EVIL ENERGY".

"EVIL ENERGY" IS PRODUCED BY THE THOUGHTS AND THE GRUDGES OF PEOPLE

OVER THE YEARS IT'S COME CLOSE TO THE STATE OF NATURALLY PRODUCED ENERGY

IT'S A KIND OF ENERGY WHICH ORIENTATES ITSELF TO EVERYTHING NEGATIVE

DON'T GET CLOSE TO THIS PLACE ANY-MORE.
THE "EVIL ENERGY" WANTS A BODY.
BE CAREFUL.
IT'S OUT TO GET YOU.
A SHAMAN ...?!
WH ...
WHAT? ARE YOU TRYING TO SCARE ME?!
TELLING ME CREEPY THINGS LIKE THAT...
BUBBLE
BUBBLE
HUH ..?
AH ...

DO SOMETHING. PLEASE DO SOMETHING!
SO DO SOMETHING!
YOU'RE AN EXORCIST!
NO!
NO WAY! THIS CAN'T BE!
AAH!
WHAT IS THIS?!
You both treat me like a monk.
WITHOUT A DOUBT
YOU ARE BROTHER AND SISTER, ALL RIGHT.
WHAT?!
STAY AWAY!

EEK!

NO WAY...
N...
THAT BLACK FOG.
DISAP-PEARED ...
DID YOU... DO THAT?
YOU TOLD ME TO DO SOMETHING, DIDN'T YOU?

blush
COULD YOU...
DISSOLVE THE SPIRIT WITH THAT?
H-HE MAKES ME MAD WITH EVERY-THING HE SAYS.
HOW LONG DO YOU INTEND
TO HOLD ONTO MY COAT?
AH!
HUH?
IT'S NOT A SPIRIT, IT'S "EVIL ENERGY".
WITHOUT A HOLY SWORD, THAT'S IMPOS-SIBLE EVEN FOR ME.
TOKYO IS A MORE DANGEROUS CITY THAN I'D EXPECTED.
IT'S FULL OF "EVIL ENERGY" OF THIS LEVEL.
IF YOU DISSOLVED IT ALL ONE BY ONE, YOU'D NEVER COME TO AN END.

IT WOULD BE EASY TO TURN YOU INTO A MEDIUM.
DON'T GET NEAR THIS PLACE AGAIN.
GOT IT!

WAIT!!
..HEY!!
YOU...!!

YOUR FIRST NAME
NO,
NOT YOUR FAMILY NAME.
FU-ZUCHI

WHAT ...
IS .. YOUR NAME?

FUZUCHI...
KURAKI.

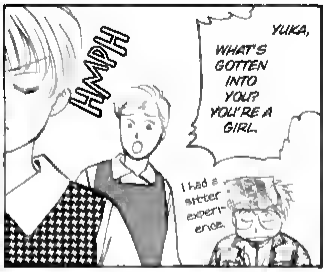
KURAKI.

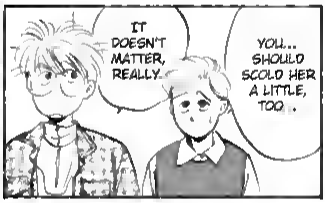
"KURAKI".

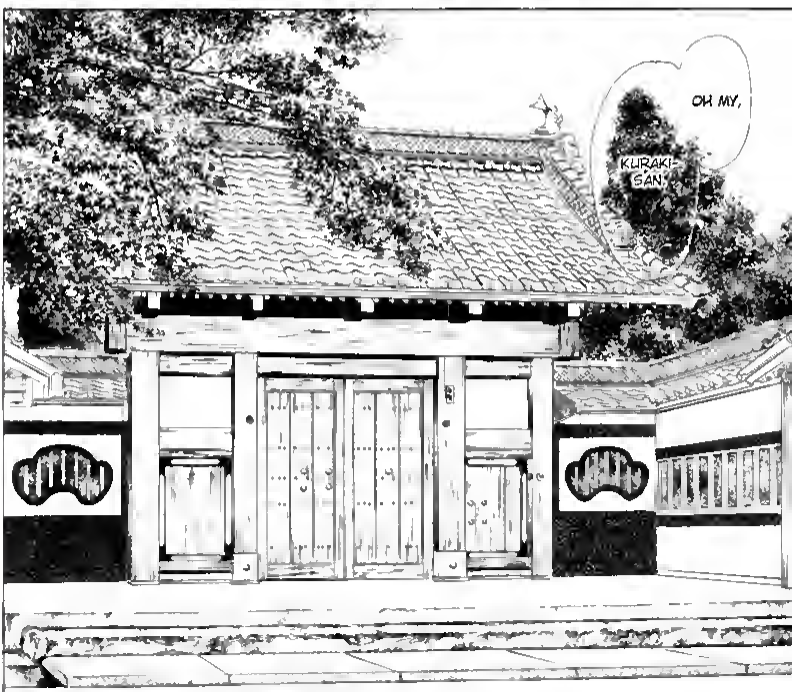
WHY DIDN'T YOU MAKE HIM WAIT?!
I DON'T KNOW CAUSE HE WENT HOME RIGHT AWAY
WHAT?!
KURAKI-KUN WAS HERE?!
JOLT
SO YOU DID...
YUKA...
DON'T TELL ME YOU GOT INTO A FIGHT WITH HIM...

YOU'LL HAVE A BITTER EXPERIENCE SOON
IF YOU THINK THAT ALL MEN DANCE TO YOUR TUNE,
KURAKI-KUN IS A DEAR FRIEND.
HOW COULD YOU DO THAT?
YUKA!
A GUY LIKE HIM WOULD MAKE ANYONE ANGRY.
IT'S ALL HIS FAULT.
PWOP
POTATO CHIPS
TAKE-CHAN,
I HATE YOU!

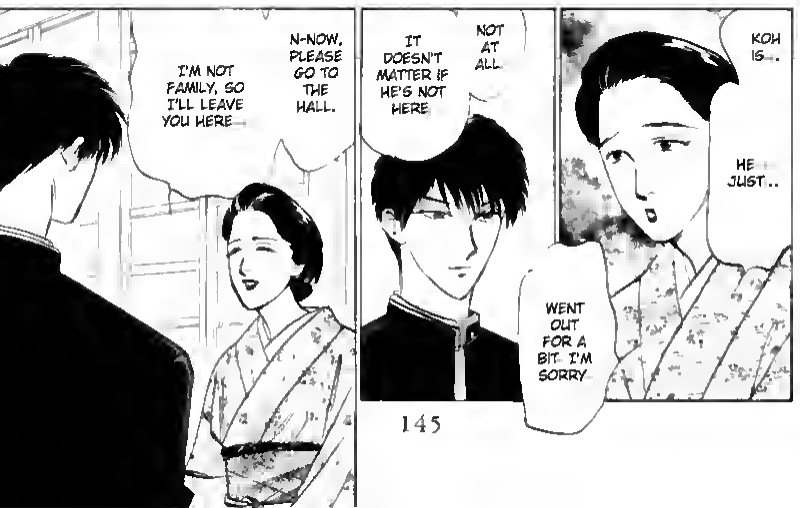
Let's see.
IF HE'S ALREADY HERE
THEN I'LL HAVE TO CALL HIM


HMPH
YUKA, WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU? YOU'RE A GIRL.
I had a better experience.


IT DOESN'T MATTER, REALLY.
YOU... SHOULD SCOLD HER A LITTLE, TOO.


OH MY,
KURAKI-SAN.

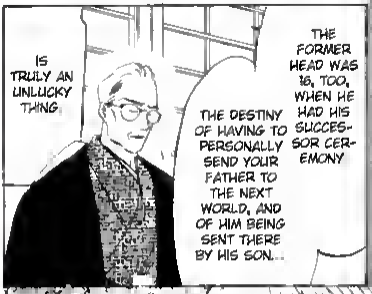
AUNT...
YES?
I APOLOGIZE FOR BEING LATE.
HERE?
IS KOH...
EVERYBODY IS WAITING FOR YOU.
I'M GLAD YOU ARRIVED SAFELY.


I'M NOT FAMILY, SO I'LL LEAVE YOU HERE...
N-NOW, PLEASE GO TO THE HALL.
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF HE'S NOT HERE.
NOT AT ALL.
KOH IS...
HE JUST..
WENT OUT FOR A BIT. I'M SORRY.

IT'S ME, KURAKI.
COME ON IN!
IS THAT WHY KOH IS SO GRUMPY? THAT SPOILT BRAT.
IT'S A FIRM RULE OF THE FU-ZUCHIS...
THAT MY AUNT, WHO SHARES NO BLOOD RELATION, IS FORBIDDEN FROM ATTENDING A FAMILY MEETING...
YOU WERE BRILLIANT AT THE KANNAGI FESTIVAL!!
KURAKI-SAN!
KU-RAKI!
IT'S GOOD THAT YOU'RE HERE!!

KURAKI, THERE'S NO NEED TO BE SO FORMAL WITH US. SIT DOWN AT THE PLACE OF HONOUR.
YOU'VE ACCOMPLISHED A PERFECT SUCCESSOR CEREMONY.
MY BROTHER WOULD BE PROUD OF YOU, TOO.

I JUST ARRIVED.
EXCUSE ME FOR BEING LATE..


THE FORMER HEAD WAS 18, TOO, WHEN HE HAD HIS SUCCESSOR CEREMONY
THE DESTINY OF HAVING TO PERSONALLY SEND YOUR FATHER TO THE NEXT WORLD, AND OF HIM BEING SENT THERE BY HIS SON...
IS TRULY AN UNLUCKY THING.

PLEASE DON'T WORRY.
IT'S THE TRUTH.

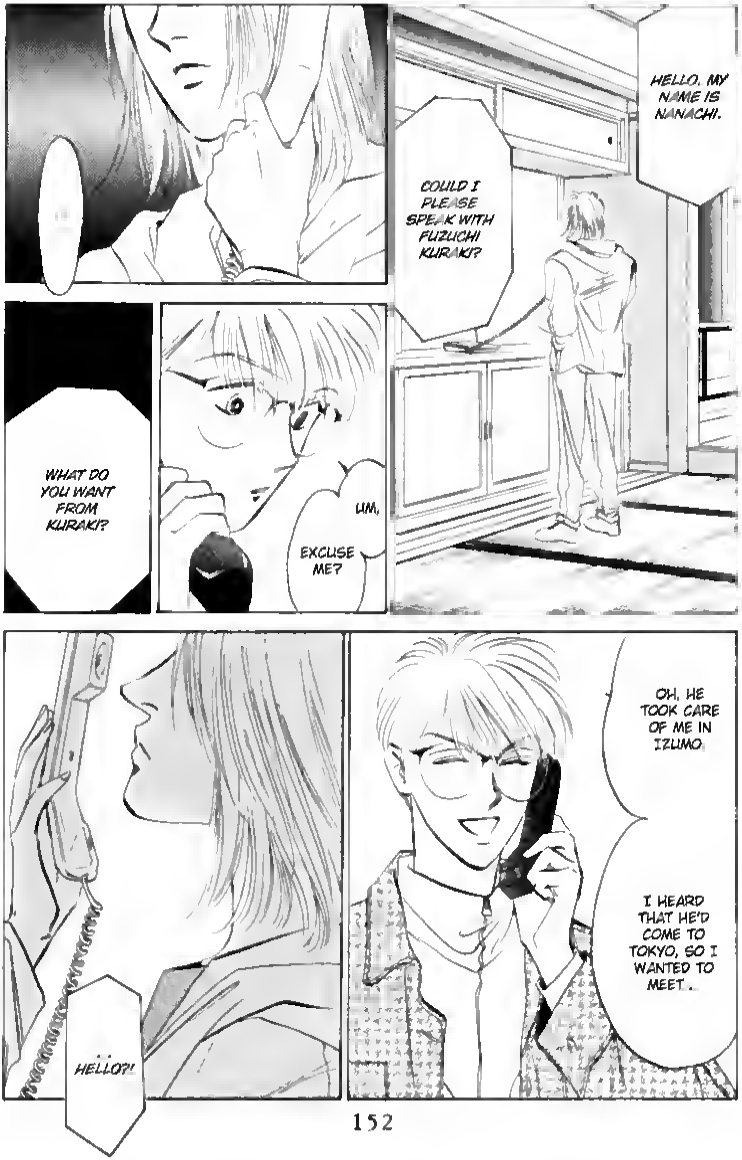
FATHER, HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT TO KURAKI-SAN..?
OH, THAT WAS...
INAPPROPRIATE.

I'LL ATONE FOR THE SIN OF LAYING HANDS ON MY FATHER ...
BY FULFILLING HIS WILL.
THAT MEANS GATHERING THE REMAINING FIVE HOLY SWORDS ...
AND DISSOLVING THE "EVIL ENERGY" OF IFUYA.
DOES THAT MEAN THAT THE TWO HOLY SWORDS "KAGUTSUCHI" AND "MIZUCHI" ARE MAINTAINING THE BARRIER NOW?
NO, "KAGUTSUCHI" IS HERE.
LUCKILY, "MIZUCHI" COULD REST WHILE IT WAS STOLEN
SO THE BARRIER CAN BE MAINTAINED BY ONE SWORD FOR A WHILE.
BUT HOW SHOULD WE FIND THE OTHERS?
THE ONLY ONE WHICH WAS RETURNED IN ALL THOSE 50 YEARS WAS "MIZUCHI", WHICH THAT YOUNG MAN BROUGHT ALONG BY COINCIDENCE.
COULD THAT YOUNG MAN NANAGHI BE A DESCENDANT?
THAT COINCIDENCE MAKES YOU WONDER.

I DON'T KNOW...
WHETHER NANACHI REALLY IS A DESCENDANT OF MIKACHI-HIKO
BUT HE CAME TO IFUYA WITH "MIZUCHI!"
WE DON'T HAVE ANY OTHER CLUES, SO THAT'S OUR ONLY RAY OF HOPE.
THE SEVEN HOLY SWORDS WERE ALL FORGED BY THE SAME SWORD SMITH AND OF THE SAME STEEL 2000 YEARS AGO.
THEY WILL COME BACK TO THE ONE THAT CREATED THEM, NO MATTER WHAT.
THAT'S WHAT OUR HEAD OFTEN SAID.
JOLT
K...
KOH IS...
UNCLE! THAT REMINDS ME, WHAT ABOUT KOH-KUN?!
TO BE ABLE TO HELP KURAKI-SAN...
BUT EVEN IF WE GATHERED ALL THE HOLY SWORDS, WE HAVEN'T GOT ANY SHAMANS THAT CAN HANDLE THEM...
I OFTEN TOLD HIM THAT MY FATE AWAITS ME IN THREE YEARS... BUT THAT WAYWARD SON OF MINE...
I HAVE NO ANSWER.
WHAT IS HE THINKING, WHEN THE DAY OF YOUR FATE IS CLOSE...?
YOU SAID IT
I'M SURE KOH DIDN'T ATTEND THE KANNAGI FESTIVAL, EITHER!
WHY IS THE NEXT HEAD OF THE KANTO FUZUCHIS NOT PRESENT AT A MOMENT LIKE THIS?!

HE IS ONE OF THE FEW SHAMANS,
I'M SURE HE'LL UNDER-STAND ME.
I'M GOING TO TALK TO KOH-KUN IN PERSON.
UNCLE, DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
KURA-KI.
VERY WELL.
I MEAN, MASTER! I'LL ENTRUST KOH TO YOUR CHARGE!
KURAKI!
WHAT EXEMPLARY BEHAV-IOUR!!
OH! THAT'S JUST LIKE THE NEW HEAD OF THE FUZUCHIS!
KOH SHOULD LOOK TO YOU AS AN EXAMPLE!
DARN

MY UNCLES CAN TAKE IT EASY.
DO THEY THINK THAT INCORRIGIBLE FOOL WILL RESIGN HIMSELF SO EASILY?
BRRR
BRRR
YES, FUJIUCHI SPEAKING.


HELLO. MY NAME IS NANACHI.
COULD I PLEASE SPEAK WITH FUZUCHI KURAKI?
UM, EXCUSE ME?
WHAT DO YOU WANT FROM KURAKI?
OH. HE TOOK CARE OF ME IN IZUMO.
I HEARD THAT HE'D COME TO TOKYO, SO I WANTED TO MEET..
HELLO?!

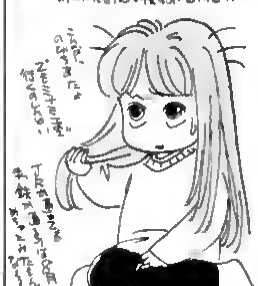
WHAT ...?
bzz bzz bzz
HUH?
CRASH
WHAT WAS THAT?
WHY'D HE DO THAT?!

Yakumo Tatsu

Scanned & Translated
Yuriko
Edited
Drack
Quality Check
Kalendel

Storm in Heaven
www.storminheaven.net

Festival of the Young Prince (2)



「花咲ける青少年終了記念本」についてのお礼とおわび

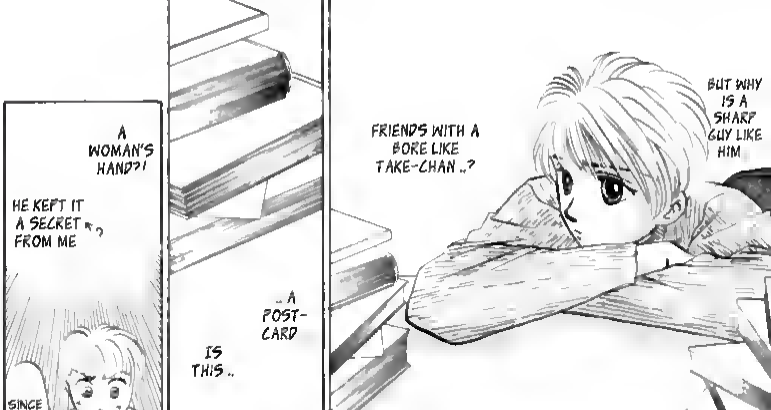
「八雲立つ」の単行本でこういうのやるのは少し違うかとは思ったんですが、単行本しか貰わん！　という方の為に、上の「花咲終了本」についてのお知らせさせて下さーい。前の忘れ物及び大地震というWパンチをくらったこの本も、ようやく完成。6月中旬には当選千名の方へ配送完了いたしました（と思う）。応募総数33424通。本当――にたくさんの御応募ありがとうございました。ハズレてしまった方、本当――にごめんなさい。皆さんの愛情のこもった根性入ったおハガキ、すごくうれしかったです。もちろん、全――部目を通しました。（3、4か月かかったけど）。

ありがとう、ありがとう！

＊当初：能野。ついての資料の本（叔父さんの物）を送って下さった方。すみませんがもう一度住所お知らせ下さい。地震騒ぎで紛失してしまいました。よろしく――（いつき）

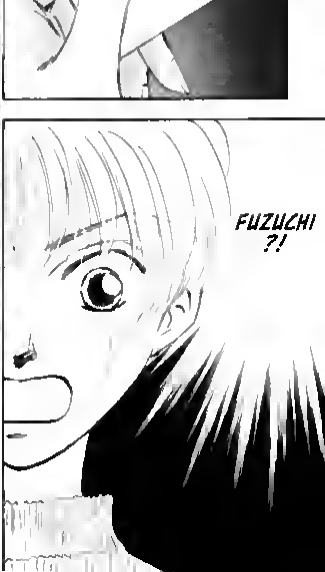
BE MY GUEST.
I'LL TELL HIM EVERY-THING!
WHEN YOUR FATHER COMES BACK FROM HIS BUSINESS TRIP,
THAT MAKES US EVEN.
CHIHO-CHAN STAYS OVER HERE OFTEN, TOO.
...DARN...
I'M NOT SCARED OF MY DAD AT ALL
IT'S NOT LIKE HE'S EXCEP-TIONALLY HANDSOME.
He really isn't here.
The wood-barn noises.
HE'S JUST THAT'S RIGHT HE'S JUST A LITTLE ON MY MIND.
"KURAKI".
AND AFTER I WANTED TO PUMP HIM FOR DETAILS ABOUT THAT GUY—

BECAUSE I'VE NEVER MET A GUY LIKE HIM
THE BOYS I USUALLY HANG OUT WITH ARE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT
FOR SOME REASON... HE'S EVEN SCARIER THAN THE ROWDY GUYS CHIHO LIKES...
THAT'S RIGHT...
HE'S SCARY...!!
I HAVE A HUNCH THAT I COULD GET HURT TO THE BONE...
IF I APPROACH HIM CARELESSLY...


A WOMAN'S HAND?!
HE KEPT IT A SECRET FROM ME..?
SINCE WHEN?
..A POST-CARD
IS THIS..
FRIENDS WITH A BORE LIKE TAKE-CHAN..?
BUT WHY IS A SHARP GUY LIKE HIM

Dear Takeo Nanachi-Sama,
How are you doing?
Next month my little brother will finally leave for Tokyo. It has occurred to me to send you his address, as I am sure his laziness has prevented him from sending it to you himself. It's rare for him to become attached to someone, so although it may be troublesome, please look out for him... Thank you so much.
IT MUST BE A MIS-UNDER-STAND-ING!!
THAT'S A MIS-UNDER-STAND-ING.
Lady!
There's just no way.
AT-TACHED?
TO TAKE-CHAN?!

HUH...?
PS At some convenient time, I'll come to Tokyo too. Please, let's spend some time together then, okay?
Yasuko Fuzuchi


FUZUCHI?!

FREE TALK 〈5〉

さて、この連載を始めようかと準備に入っていた1995年1月17日にあの阪神大震災がおこりました。私の家は何を隠そう神戸であります。3代前から神戸に住んどるいわゆる生粋の神戸っ子というやつです。

その街が、こっぱみじんといっていいくらい無茶苦茶になりました。これについて、この$\frac{1}{4}$スペースでは書きたくなかったので今回は別のお話をさせて頂きました。

あの震災については色々とドタマにくる事が巻き起こりまして、本当に人生観が変わりました。

まあ最後に一つだけ。

「頑張れ」という言葉は便利だけど、ある意味残酷だなあ——と。

皆さんも使う時はちょっと考えてみて下さいね。

では、また。

MEAN-WHILE ...
YUKA!
YOU HOR-RIBLE CHILD!
IT'S THE TRUTH
I HAVE SOMETHING REALLY, REALLY IMPORTANT TO DO!!
*T/N. Inugami Family is a Japanese mystery movie.
KURAKI-KUN'S HOUSE IN IZUMO WAS HUGE, TOO.
BUT HIS UNCLE'S HOUSE IS BIG AS WELL
It's like in "The Inugami Family"

CREAK
HUH?
I WAS ANGRY BECAUSE THAT PHONE CALL TICKED ME OFF, SO I WANTED TO COME HERE TO MEET HIM IN PERSON. BUT NOW I FEEL AWKWARD COMING HERE, AFTER ALL.
BUT I CAME ALL THE WAY HERE...
I GIVE UP...
OH...
C...N I HELP YOU...?
THAT WOULD BE VERY NICE OF YOU!
BUT I'M SURE HE'LL BE RIGHT BACK. WOULD YOU LIKE TO WAIT FOR HIM INSIDE?
HE JUST WENT OUT TO DEAL WITH THE MOVING FORMS.
OH MY, A FRIEND OF KURAKI-SAN?
I.. WELL, I'M A GOOD FRIEND OF HIS. MY NAME IS NANACHI
OH, UM, IS KURAKI-KUN AT HOME?

I'VE GOT SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO DO, SO I'LL CALL SOMEONE FROM THE HOUSE
PLEASE COME IN
THANK YOU
KNOCK
OH
KOH-CHAN!
COME HERE FOR A MOMENT!
THIS YOUNG MAN IS A FRIEND OF KURAKI-SAN
SHOW HIM TO THE PARLOUR
HUH?
NO, I'M..
MUCH OLDER
THIS IS KURAKI-SAN'S COUSIN, KOH
HE'S THE SAME AGE
smile
YOU'RE CLOSE IN AGE TOO, SO YOU'LL GET ALONG WELL, WON'T YOU? TALK A LITTLE UNTIL KURAKI-SAN COMES BACK
smile
YOU WILL DO THAT, RIGHT, KOH?
WELL... NEVER MIND

SURE.
HE'S 16, TOO?!
Why are the kids so huge these days?

YOU'VE GOT A BIG HOUSE.
IS WHAT YOU CAN SEE OVER THERE A DOJO?
SO YOU DO IAI, TOO?!
HM. . I HAD NO CHOICE
BUT THAT BORING STUFF IS OVER NOW
BUT YOU'RE THE HEIR TO THIS DOJO, AREN'T YOU?
AND KURAKI-KUN HAS THE DOJO IN IZUMO.
THIS DOJO AS WELL AS THIS HOUSE
MEMBERS OF BRANCH FAMILIES HAVE NO CLAIM.
THE PROPERTY OF THE FUZUCHI IS BELONGS TO KURAKI

THAT'S RIDICULOUS.
ACCORDING TO JAPANESE LAW, SOMETHING LIKE THAT ISN'T..
LAW?
DO YOU THINK THE FUZUCHIS OBEY THE LAW?
PUMP
DOES HE KNOW ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED AT THAT VILLAGE?!
YOU SAID..
YOU WERE KURAKI'S FRIEND?
HUH ...?
I DON'T BELIEVE YOU.

HE'S NOT SOMEONE WHO CAN MAKE FRIENDS.
THAT'S
NOT TRUE!
KURAKI-KUN ISN'T THE UN-POPULAR TYPE
EVEN THE PEOPLE WHO WANT TO AP-PROACH HIM ARE FRIGHT-ENED OFF
I SURE WAS SCARED AT FIRST
TH... THAT'S RIGHT
NO, BUT...
HE CAN'T, I TELL YOU.
AS LONG AS HE ACTS SO ALOOF,
IN OTHER WORDS,
HE'S STUCK UP.

YOU'RE HIS COUSIN, AREN'T YOU?
KURAKI-KUN ISN'T THAT KIND OF A PERSON!
SO DON'T TALK LIKE THIS!!
HE THINKS THAT HE'S SOMEONE SPECIAL,
AND THAT IT WOULD BE STUPID TO ASSOCIATE WITH YOU PEOPLE
HE THINKS THAT ABOUT YOU TOO, ACTUALLY
P...
PART WITH HIM?!
YOU SEEM TO BE SLOW.
AND AFTER I WENT TO THE TROUBLE OF GIVING YOU AN OPPORTU-NITY TO PART WITH HIM.

AH!
SO THE ONE ON THE PHONE WAS YOU!
YOU SHOULD HAVE NOTICED MY VOICE RIGHT AWAY.
THEN FOLLOW ME...
TO THE DOJO.
WHY DID YOU...?
YOU WANT TO KNOW?
OF COURSE!
TH...
THE DOJO?!
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
WH-
sfx. whoosh

I WENT BECAUSE OF HIM, EVEN THOUGH I'LL END UP BEING TREATED COLDLY BY HIM AGAIN.
WHAT DID I INTEND TO DO..
I WENT OUT WITHOUT THINKING AHEAD
WHEN I ARRIVED AT HIS PLACE?
THAT I PLANNED WITH MINORU.
I COULD STILL BE ON TIME TO THE DATE.
IF I LEFT NOW FOR SHINJUKU.
HUH ..?
IN SHINJUKU...
HE'S ALWAYS NICE TO ME
THAT'S RIGHT. I'LL GIVE THIS UP AND GET OFF AT THE NEXT STATION!
AND HE BUYS ME ANYTHING

BDNP
AH!
PSHAAA

I...
I'M GETTING OFF.
PLEASE LET ME THROUGH!
W...
WAIT!!
FUZUCHI-KUN!!
W...
THROB
THROB
THROB
WHOA!
WHAT'S WITH MY HEART-BEAT?!
MY HEART IS LEAPING...!!
THROB
THROB

THROB
THROB
THROB
WH WHAT SHOULD I DO? IT WON'T STOP
WHY
IT'S NANACHI'S LITTLE SISTER
WHAT IF HE NOTICES?
STOP CALLING ME NANACHI'S LITTLE SISTER!
I HAVE A NAME! IT'S YUKA!
AND I THOUGHT
SOMETHING LIKE THIS ONLY HAPPENS IN MANGAS OR NOVELS...!!
NANACHI
WENT TO MY UNCLE'S HOUSE?!
TAKE-CHAN WENT TO YOUR PLACE... SO I FOLLOWED HIM!
SO WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, YUKA?

RIGHT.
IF I APPROACH HIM CARELESSLY...
I COULD GET...
HURT TO THE BONE
I... NEED SOMETHING IMPORTANT FROM HIM ...
SO I..
FOLLOW ME
I'M SCARED
Y...
YEAH ...
I HAVE A FEELING...

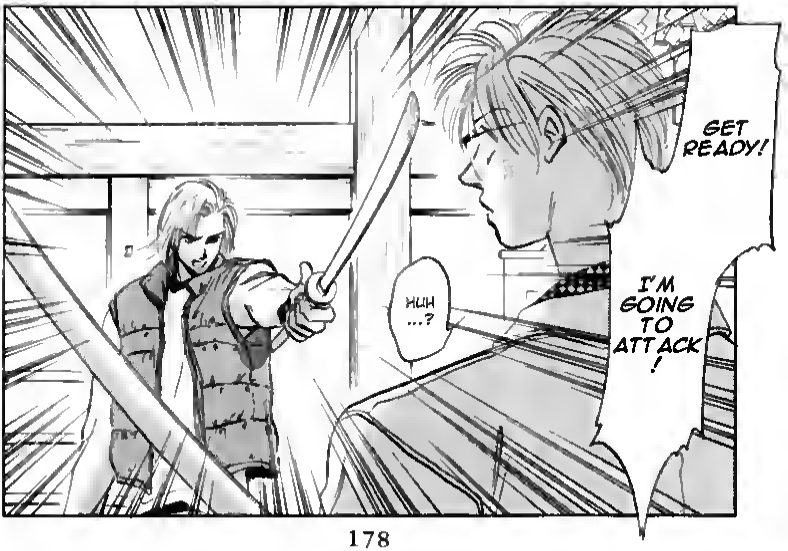
BUT STILL, I CAN'T STOP. I DON'T WANT TO STOP
THAT IF I GO WITH HIM NOW, ONLY TROUBLE WILL AWAIT ME.
THINKING THAT SOME-THING LIKE THIS..
IS POSSIBLE

SO?
NOW TELL ME!! THE REASON!
THAT IT REALLY
IS POSSIBLE.
SNAP
HERE.
HUH?!
WH.. WHAT IS THIS?
RIP

I KNOW THAT MUCH
BUT WHY?
WE WANTED TO TALK, DIDN'T WE?

CAN'T YOU TELL?
IT'S A WOODEN SWORD

THIS IS FASTER ...
THAN TALKING ...


GET READY!
I'M GOING TO ATTACK!
HUH ...?

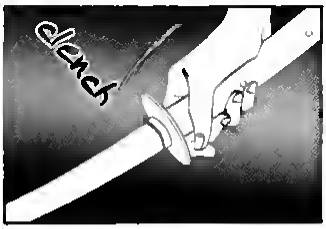
SH SHAH
W...
WOAH!

AH...
OW...
TSUNG
CLOTTER
OH?
FOR YOURSELF
YOU'VE EXPERIENCED IT
NOW...
WH... WHY ...?

THAT ...

THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS ...
WHEN YOU GET CLOSE TO FUZUCHI KURAKI.

I... I'M A NOVICE!
AND YOU'RE RANKED, AREN'T YOU?
THAT'S COW-ARDLY!
COW-ARDLY!


clench

HM?
W...
WAIT A MINUTE!

COWARDLY,
YOU SAY?
HUH?!
NOW THAT WE'RE AT IT, I'LL EXPLAIN IT TO YOU.
WE DON'T HAVE RANKS IN OUR SCHOOL.
WE ONLY HAVE THREE DIPLOMAS WHICH CERTIFY YOU CERTAIN MASTERSHIPS.
CURRENTLY, THERE ARE ONLY FIVE PEOPLE AMONG ALL THE PUPILS NATIONWIDE WHO HAVE A DIPLOMA,
AND ONLY ONE HAS A DIPLOMA OF FULL MASTERSHIP.
shock
trouble
KURAKI-KUN...?
WHO ELSE?!
THAT DIPLOMA IS ONLY GIVEN TO THE SUCCESSOR OF THE HEAD FAMILY.
HE GETS SPECIAL TREATMENT EVERYWHERE?!

BUT KURAKI-KUN GOT OTHER DIPLOMAS BEFORE THAT, TOO, DIDN'T HE?
AND HIS FATHER DIDN'T LOOK LIKE SOMEONE WHO FAVOURED ANYONE
THAT'S ALL JUST YOUR JEALOUSY...
WHAT ... DID YOU SAY?!
Big Trouble
AH.
UM...
NO, I MEAN...
WAH!
WAIT, WAIT! I'M SORRY!
—I WAS WRONG!
YOU JERK!
YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS!!
STOMP STOMP STOMP
Terrible.

FWJAH!
!
jerk
WAH!
GRAB
OW...

BUT I TOLD YOU... THAT I WAS A NOVICE...
YOU'RE RIDICULOUSLY WEAK
YOU DIDN'T WANT TO MAKE USE OF THE WOODEN SWORD, EITHER.
ST... STOP IT. YOU'RE GOING TO BREAK MY ARM ...!
WAH!
DON'T WORRY.
AT FIRST I WANTED TO BREAK ONE OF YOUR ARMS OR SOMETHING,
BUT THAT WON'T BE NECESSARY.
ONE FINGER WILL DO.
Shit!

WAH!
I'M SERIOUS, I SWEAR!
STOP IT!
HM.
YOU'RE PRETTY BRAVE,
THAT YOU CAN MAKE JOKES IN A SITUATION LIKE THIS
I'M AGAINST VIOLENCE!! YOU WON'T ACHIEVE ANYTHING BY USING FORCE.
LET'S TALK ABOUT THIS!
THERE'S NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN ARM OR A FINGER!
WHOOSH

SK-THUNK
W...
quiver
WOAH!
THERE'S A WOODEN SWORD STUCK IN THE WALL...
SO HE CAME !!

KU-RAKI-KU..
KU...
STEP

WHAT KIND...
OF AN ATTITUDE IS THIS, KOH?

YOU WANTED TO MAKE LIFE COMPLICATED FOR ME AND MY UNCLE, RIGHT?
I'LL TELL YOU, THEN
EVEN AN IDIOT COULD FIGURE OUT WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND.

HEH
WHAT ARE YOU SO UPSET FOR?
THIS ISN'T LIKE YOU.

Shock
HUH ..?
TAKE-CHAN IS INDISPENSABLE ?!

I DON'T KNOW WHERE YOU HEARD ABOUT IT,
BUT YOU WANTED TO GET IN OUR WAY BECAUSE YOU KNEW THAT NANACHI WAS INDISPENSABLE TO THE FUZUCHIS, DIDN'T YOU?

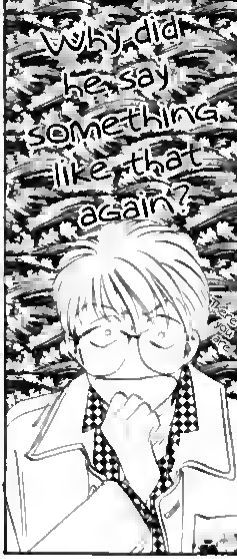
HEH.

ABOUT THE CURSE OF SUSANOO...
AND DISSOLVING THE EVIL ENERGY OF IFUYA,
THAT I HAVE TO DEAL WITH THAT HORRIBLY BORING CRAP!!
IT'S BECAUSE YOU KEEP TALKING THAT NON-SENSE...

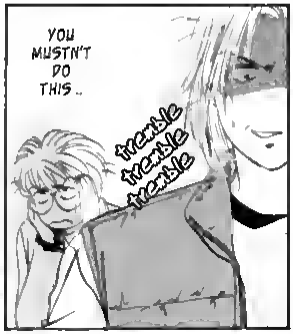
IS THAT YOU'RE SO CONCEITED ...
ABOUT BEING THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY!!
WHY DO I HAVE TO CONCERN MYSELF WITH THAT JUST BECAUSE I WAS BORN INTO THE FUZUCHI FAMILY?!
THIS IS BAD
IF HE KEEPS ON LIKE THAT, HE'LL GET INTO A FIGHT WITH KURAKI
WHAT BOTHERS ME MOST OF ALL. .
THAT COULDN'T BE HELPED, NOW COULD IT?
I'M THE ONLY ONE IN THE FAMILY WHO'S SUITABLE TO BE THE HEAD

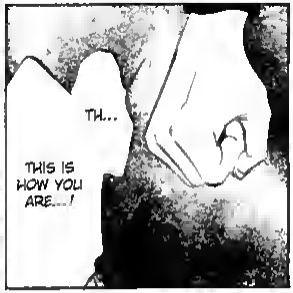
SO YOU MEAN TO SAY THAT I'M NOT AS GOOD AS YOU, OR SOMETHING.?
YOU JERK!
THAT GOES WITHOUT SAYING.
OF COURSE.
You're making me look like an idiot

Y...


Why did he say something like that again?

I SEE RIGHT THROUGH YOUR ROTTEN CHARACTER!!
DON'T MAKE ME LAUGH!!
IN FRONT OF MY FATHER AND OUR OTHER RELATIVES, YOU PLAY THE GOOD KID


YOU MUSTN'T DO THIS..
tremble tremble tremble


TH...
THIS IS HOW YOU ARE...!

IF YOU DON'T WANT THEM TO SAY THAT, THEN YOU SHOULD ACT LIKE ME OUTWARDLY.
I WISH YOU'D SHOW THEM YOUR TRUE COLOURS!
THEY WANT ME TO TAKE YOUR BEHAVIOUR AS AN EXAMPLE!!
I'D RATHER DIE!
WHA ...
STOP IT AL-READY!
COME ON, YOU TWO...
TAKE IT BACK!!
STGHR
THAT'S WHY..
I CALL YOU AN IDIOT.
KURAKI ..! EVEN IF MY FATHER AND THE OTHERS CAN'T SEE IT,
I DO!
EX-ACTLY,
BECAUSE I'M A SHAMAN, TOO!!

I ALSO SEE THE EVIL GHOSTS THAT SHADOW YOU!!
KOH-KUN...
WHAT DID YOU DO...
TO BECOME THE HEAD, ANYWAY?!
...WHAT...
DID I DO?

YOU TELL ME ...!
Uh...
STOP IT!
BOTH OF YOU,
PUT AN END TO IT!!

NO ONE IS SUPERIOR OR INFERIOR!!
YOU'RE COUSINS, AREN'T YOU?
STOP FIGHTING!

DO YOU KNOW...
JUST HOW MUCH I HATED THAT ALL THESE 16 YEARS?!

THAT'S RIGHT...!
WE'RE RELATED BY BLOOD, SO WE'RE EQUAL!!

KOH-KUN?!

SWAP
KURAKI!
TAKE IT,
WHOOSH
DULLED SWORDS ?!
WE DON'T USE CRAP LIKE THAT.
EVEN IF THOSE SWORDS ARE DULLED, THEY'RE STILL IRON!
S... STOP THIS!!
Y... YOU'LL GET HURT!
IT DOESN'T MATTER IF THE DAY IS TODAY!!
WE HAVE TO SETTLE THIS SOONER OR LATER!!

COME ON!!
I'M NOT GOING TO HOLD BACK!
TH... THEN
THESE ARE EDGED
REAL SWORDS?!
YOU...
STUBBORN FOOL...!!